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INSIDE
CHRISTMAS EDITION

The Highlander

Thursday December 19 2024 | Issue 671

INSIDE: PARAMEDIC GETS 30-YEAR PIN PAGE 13

Happy holidays...

Stuart Baker Elementary School held its Christmas concert at J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Dec. 18 much to the delight of the students, staff and parents. Here, two students rock it out. See more photos on page 16. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Christmas delivers two new docs for 2025

By Mike Baker

While Haliburton County won't be one of the 26 rural communities to benefit from the first batch of internationally-trained physicians arriving via the new Practice Ready Ontario program, local recruiters have confirmed two new family doctors will start practising in the area in early 2025.

Dr. Mimi Van Der Leden is joining the Kinmount and District Health Centre (KDHC) full-time in February, while Dr. Sharysse Kayoumedjian is joining the Haliburton Family Medical Centre (HFMC) on a part-time basis in March.

For the Kinmount centre, this is the second new addition in as many years after Dr. Lesslie Ponraja relocated to the community from the UK in February 2023. Dr. Norm Bottum, who practices at HFMC, said Kayoumedjian is the first new family physician in Haliburton for more than three years. She will be partially taking over Dr. Christina Stephenson's practice. Stephenson retired in July 2023.

"It's welcome news, but we could still stand to add another three or four doctors to Haliburton County," Bottum said. "We have a long waiting list that we haven't been able to take any patients off of for close to six years now. An easy guess would be 2,000 to 3,000 patients in Haliburton County don't have a regular physician."

HFMC has a roster of approximately 10,000 patients, Bottum said.

Continued **'Kinmount'** on page 2

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Kinmount launches new waitlist

Continued from page 1

Hannah Jensen, Ministry of Health spokesperson, said there are approximately 3,080 people voluntarily registered with Health Care Connect - the program that matches Ontarians with a family doctor - in the County and Kawartha Lakes.

Susan Forrester, a volunteer with KDHC, said the Kinmount practice should be able to shave a good chunk off that waitlist with Van Der Leden expected to take on approximately 1,500 new patients when she arrives. She said the KDHC waitlist has over 1,000 people.

Area residents who do not have a family doctor are asked to join a new waitlist by applying at forms.gle/tnYDLfSVDnwMXSby9.

It'll be a true north homecoming for Van Der Leden – she grew up in eastern Ontario and graduated from Montreal's McGill University before obtaining her MD PhD from the University of Illinois. She was most recently practicing in the Chicago area.

"This is big news for Kinmount and for the wider community – family medicine is hard to access in rural Ontario. We're competing with other communities not only here, but across the country, and across the world," Stevenson said. "Dr. Van Der Leden is excited about relocating here – she's visited multiple times this year and has spoken about enjoying nature, the feel of the community. We're lucky to have her."

Practice Ready Ontario

There was a period in the fall when Forrester and the rest of the KDHC team thought they might have been getting two new doctors.

Kinmount was in the running for another U.S. based physician until recently. That doctor was approved in the first batch of overseas physicians graduated through the provincial Practice Ready Ontario program, though chose to work in another community.

The file removes requirements to complete years-long re-education programs, introducing 12-week assessments applicants must pass to prove they have the skills needed to practise here. Once approved, the doctors are required to complete a three-year return of service as a family doctor in a rural or northern community.

The province said it plans to bring 100 new doctors to Ontario in 2025.

Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Brock MPP Laurie Scott said she's hearing Canada is an increasingly attractive destination for overseas docs.

"We know we have a shortage of doctors in Ontario, so we're trying to make it as easy as possible for qualified physicians to come here. Our recruitment people are saying they're getting positive responses. We still have some vacancies to fill, so I hope our teams and communities continue to apply," Scott said.

Wendy Welch, Haliburton County's doctor recruitment coordinator, said she did not apply. "Our physician team investigated Practice Ready Ontario but, unfortunately, do not have the capacity to participate."

Dr. Norm Bottum of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team said it was welcome news the area will soon be getting two new family physicians. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Bottum said he'll reserve judgement on the program. He says any attempts to bring additional qualified doctors to Ontario is a positive thing, though he believes the province should prioritize training more physicians here.

"We've been so poor in Ontario graduating medical students. We've known, literally, for decades that we're not graduating enough," Bottum said. "What the government should be doing, instead of focusing on overseas, is getting to the point where we have a surplus of doctors here in Ontario, so that we can help other parts of the country."

The province announced last fall it would be investing $88 million over three years to expand Learn and Stay grants for 1,360 eligible Canadian undergraduates who commit to practice family medicine with a full roster of patients once they graduate.

It's estimated the investment will connect an additional 1.36 million people to primary care by 2028.

Bottum said it's a good start, but more is needed. He believes a lack of family doctors in the area is driving people to the busy Haliburton Highlands Health Services emergency room, estimating 75 to 80 per cent of patients who require acute care don't have one.

"This failure goes back decades – we've ended up in this terrible situation where almost every government for the past 30-plus years has ignored health care," Bottum said.

It's snow joke, winter arrives in Highlands

By Mike Baker

When the heavens opened in early December, covering Haliburton County with a thick blanket of snow, Tanya McCready of Winterdance Dogsled Tours felt like her prayers had been answered.

It had been another late start to the winter season for most in the Highlands. It used to be that businesses would prep and get ready for snow or ice-based activities beginning in late October or early November, but for the past couple of years, the ground has remained green, and lakes thawed well into December.

That's made things tricky for tourism operators such as McCready, who depend on a long and busy winter to ensure bills are paid year-round.

"I won't lie, it was looking a little scary there for a while... When we were looking to start our business 25 years ago, Haliburton was the closest thing we found to the Yukon… but the weather has been very unpredictable recently," she said.

So much so that she and partner, Hank DeBruin, invested in a snowmaking machine this year.

"We can't afford to gamble on Mother Nature anymore," McCready said, noting she did about half the business she usually does last year.

The pair planned to fire up properly for the first time last month at Camp Kandalore, after being contracted to make snow for a Hollywood feature being filmed in the area. But, even in mid-November, temperatures were too high and whatever came out of the machine quickly melted.

After a flurry of snowfalls this month, McCready said they're running the machine to build up snow reserves that can be used to supplement, patch and rebuild the trail systems should temperatures rise.

With 2,100 acres on the southeast corner of Haliburton Lake, Winterdance welcomes guests from across the world. They had their first visitors, from Australia, Dec. 7 and opened to the public Dec. 14. McCready said six families participated in half-day and two-hour tours over the weekend.

Winterdance Dogsled Tours resumed operations for the season over the weekend. *File*.

> *"It would be nice for Ontarians to know they can count on winter again, because I think a lot of people have kind of given up on it"*
>
> ***Tanya McCready, Winterdance Dogsled Tours***

Getting sled-ready

It's been a busy time too for Neil Vanderstoop, president of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association. He said volunteers were grooming for the first time last weekend as the group prepares its trails for the new season.

"They're calling for lots of snow, so I'm optimistic," Vanderstoop said. "Even though it was a late start, it's been similar to last year and we still groomed for eight weeks last year, so it wasn't our shortest season. We had some years in the 70s and 80s where people could barely get their machines out."

While lakes aren't yet fully frozen, he warned snowmobilers to use caution when planning routes. Lakes should only be accessed if they've been staked by HCSA, Vanderstoop said.

Dec. 14 and 15 was also the opening weekend at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride.

"We're really excited - the winter snow that came early to the County was certainly a help in terms of getting the entire hill in really good shape ready for opening. It bodes well for the amount of snow we'll see throughout the season," said co-owner, Doug Wilkinson.

He was happy to hear HCSA's snowmobile trails were back online, saying riders tend to bring their family north for trips, with many opting to ski too.

Angelica Ingram, the County's manager of tourism, said she's heard positive things from businesses over the past couple of weeks.

"The abundance of snow has brought about a great sense of optimism in the Highlands. Many [other] outdoor adventure operators are also welcoming guests – Haliburton Forest, the Nordic Ski Trail Association and much more," Ingram said.

After being forced to cease operations in March the past couple of years, McCready said she's hoping for a more typical winter season.

"It'd be great to see snow right up to April – a little bit of fresh snow every week is the perfect recipe for anyone into snowmobiling, skiing, snowboarding and dogsledding. It would be nice for Ontarians to know they can count on winter again, because I think a lot of people have kind of given up on it."

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Dysart council sides with staff on patio

By Mike Baker

The owners of Haliburton's Hook, Line and Sinker restaurant say they may have to pull the plug on their plan to install a second-floor seasonal patio overlooking Head Lake.

Taylor Pridham and Veronica Van Leeuwen have been working with Dysart et al for months on the proposal, which would create seating for up to 30 additional guests. They say the patio would help the restaurant increase revenue over the busy summer season.

The project has been held up pending bylaw review – with township planner, Jeff Iles, informing council at a recent meeting there's a disconnect between the two parties over how to define the new space. Iles claims, since food will be served on the patio it should be considered an extension of the restaurant. Because capacity will increase, he said the restaurant is required to provide an additional 22 parking spaces before the project can be approved.

Iles said the township uses two methods to calculate parking requirements – designate one spot for every nine square metres of floor area, or one spot for every four people who can be legally accommodated at one time. He said the township typically goes with whichever creates more parking.

The restaurant currently has 40 parking spaces according to the township – 16 on-site and 24 across the road in the Head Lake Park parking lot. Based on its existing inside capacity of 112 people, that translates to 28 parking spaces. Based on the floor area, estimated at 565 sq. metres, the need is 63 parking spaces. There is a second-floor residential space that requires two additional units, Iles said.

The owners claim since the township's bylaw defines floor area as the space of all floors within the exterior walls of the building – specifically excluding patios, decks, and verandas – the approximate 160 sq. metre extension shouldn't be factored in.

Hook, Line and Sinker owners want to build a new patio overlooking Head Lake. *File*.

At its Nov. 26 meeting, Dysart council sided with staff, confirming its position that the patio would be an extension of the restaurant.

Because there's no existing space on-site to accommodate more parking, Iles said the township would have to designate additional space at the Head Lake Park lot, which he states could be problematic.

"The lot across the road has a total of 77 spaces – we've already allocated 33 spaces. Even if we were to do another 20 or so… there would only be 24 left for the public," Iles said, noting the space gets busy during the summer for people launching boats on the water, visiting the park, or attending events such as the Haliburton County farmers market.

Coun. Pat Casey said he'd like to see the township work with the restaurant on a resolution that makes all parties happy. He suggested an earlier offer from Pridham, to secure 10 additional parking spots for $20,000, was fair.

"It's not like they're creating more capacity – if we went by those numbers, they wouldn't need an increase [in parking] at all," Casey said.

Iles said the restaurant has indicated it wants to increase its capacity to 150 people with the patio expansion. He also warned council against setting a precedent it may have to honour in future.

Coun. Barry Boice suggested splitting the difference with the restaurant in half – per the bylaw, the township would be due $44,000. Iles said the amount charged for parking can be determined at a future meeting.

Pridham said he hopes to come to terms, but noted what is being proposed is way beyond the restaurant's budget.

"As it stands, the town is looking for an additional 20 parking spaces to be paid for – in other words, a fee of between $20,000 and $40,000, which would, unfortunately, make sure the project would not go ahead," Pridham said.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- January 9 -Regular Council Meeting
- January 30 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

SNOW REMOVAL

Section 181 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

When a winter storm is expected, drivers need to have a plan. It is important to delay unnecessary travel during significant storms to give plows time to do their jobs. It's also safer for drivers.

UPCOMING MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

Municipal/Public Works/Fire Department Administration Offices
Dec 24th 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
CLOSED Dec 25th - Jan 1st

Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery
CLOSED Dec 24th - Jan 1st

Waste Disposal Sites
All Sites are CLOSED Dec 25th & Jan 1st
Sites will operate on regular winter hours all other days.

SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre
Dec 24th 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Dec 31st 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
CLOSED Dec 25th, 26th & Jan 1st

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Join our Community Services Department as a Temporary, Full-Time Operator. Starts Jan 2025 for 12 months. 40 hours/week. Rate of pay will be $28.09/hour. Earnings subject to union dues.

Application Deadline is Friday, December 20, 2024, at 4:00 PM. To apply, visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS – 2025 BUDGET

The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills is preparing its 2025 Municipal Budget. Council commenced its overview of the Draft Budget at the November 21, 2024, Special Meeting. Council will continue to consider the budget at several upcoming special meetings. The Adoption of the Water and Wastewater rates will be considered at the January 14, 2025, meeting. Please note that dates are subject to change and are dependent on deliberation and direction. For complete details, visit our website.

- **Tuesday, January 14, 2025:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Fire Department; Public Works Department; Water and Wastewater; and Administration.
- **Thursday, January 16, 2025:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Community Services Department; Planning Department; and Building Department.
- **Tuesday, February 4, 2025:** Adopt and Finalize the 2025 Budget.

RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Join us at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre during the winter break for our many drop-in activities. Pick up a copy of the schedule at the arena or check them out on our website.

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County postal service has resumed

By Mike Baker

County mail delivery workers returned to their usual routes without a new contract Dec. 17. *File*.

Highlands-based Canada Post delivery personnel are disappointed to have been mandated back to work, says Doug Ford, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) local 564 covering Haliburton County.

Workers returned to their usual routes Dec. 17 after spending a month on the picket line lobbying for wage increases, greater job protection, and pay equity for new employees.

Approximately 95 per cent of CUPW's 55,000 unionized workers Canada-wide supported the strike action, walking off the job Nov. 15. Most had been working without a contract since Dec. 31, 2023.

"It's our opinion that Canada Post negotiated in bad faith waiting for the government to intervene – that's how everybody feels," Ford said. "Our union made some fairly significant concessions in the last week to try and get a deal, but Canada Post outright refused. It's apparent to us that this was their game plan since the beginning.

"Workers have a right to collectively negotiate. Once again, it's been taken away by the government… workers are disappointed, because they've all stuck together this past month. They wanted a negotiated settlement," he added.

The Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) stepped in Dec. 15, noting negotiations between the union and Crown corporation were at an impasse following two days of hearings over the weekend. Federal labour minister Steven MacKinnon, on Dec. 13, directed CIRB to order all employees back to work if it didn't think a deal was doable before the end of the year.

Unionized members will work under the terms of their expired deal until May 22, though will receive a five per cent wage increase retroactive to the day after collective agreements expired – Dec. 31 for rural and suburban carriers and Jan. 31, 2024 for the urban unit.

Canada Post said the wage increase and retroactive payment will be made by Jan. 31, 2025, though all regularly contracted employees will receive $1,000 before Christmas, with temporary employees getting $500.

"We look forward to welcoming our employees back to work and serving the millions of Canadians and businesses who rely on our services," Canada Post said in a statement Dec. 15. "Our commitment has always been to reach negotiated agreements that would help us better serve the changing needs of Canadians. We remain committed to doing so within this new process."

Ford noted most media outlets were reporting a return to work before the union agreed to the CIRB directive. Officials signed off on the mandate the evening of Dec. 16, though Ford said CUPW will be challenging the order in court.

"In defence of our position, we have court victories that show what's happening is illegal. It's always the same thing – one rule for me and another for the government. It shouldn't be that way. Nobody should be above a court ruling from the Supreme Court, but that's what's happened," Ford said. "This is the government bailing out Canada Post."

The company said workers will begin processing mail and parcels that have been trapped in the system the past four-and-a-half weeks. New domestic mail outs won't be accepted until Dec. 19, with international deliveries resuming Dec. 23.

Service guarantees are temporarily suspended, with Canada Post telling the public to expect delays through the remainder of 2024 and into the new year.

Ford said he's concerned that, by implementing a temporary contract, the government is kicking the can down the road. He said the two negotiating parties remain far apart on key details surrounding a new seven-day delivery cycle and pay.

Canada Post wants to use part-time relief workers to fill weekend routes, rather than full-time employees, and has offered to increase wages 12.5 per cent. Ford said last he heard the union was asking for an extra 19.5 per cent.

"Now our workers are going back, they're doing it not knowing things are settled. They're wondering what's going to happen after this time out. This is something unprecedented – we still don't know what's going to happen in May. Nobody wants to see another disruption," Ford said.

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DYSART ET AL NEWS

Year four for program

Township staff completed 388 septic inspections in 2024, targeting properties on the eastern border of the municipality on Benoir, Elephant, Farquhar, Fishtail and Grace lakes.

At a Dec. 10 meeting, program supervisor Bri Quinn said this was year four of the five-year program, telling council she thought it had been another successful season.

Inspectors flagged 53 properties as high-risk, with issues including pump failures, outlet obstructions, failed leaching beds, compromised tanks, excessively high/low levels within tanks, corroded metal tanks, and greywater discharging to grade. Another six properties were flagged for installing partial or full systems without obtaining a permit, with 175 remedial actions issued for pump outs.

Staff will wrap up the five-year project in Harcourt Park next summer, Quinn said. After that, the program will be paused "for a couple of years" so staff can focus on inspections for short-term rental properties. She said it would be up to council to decide when to recycle the program.

More parking

The public skating rink at 76 Maple Ave. is to be decommissioned, with the space transitioning to overflow parking for people visiting the Haliburton library, Rails End Gallery, and Head Lake Park.

Coun. Pat Casey said the rink has been underutilized for years. He said he's heard multiple complaints recently about the lack of parking in the downtown, saying this would be a good fix.

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie and coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts said they wanted to see the rink rebuilt elsewhere in the community – CAO Tamara Wilbee said the township is currently working on a parks and recreation master plan and would consider the request in a final report.

Telling our story

Council has endorsed a proposal from Haliburton Highlands Museum director Kate Butler to apply for $25,000 through Digital Museums Canada (DMC) to create a new online exhibit about The Golden Slipper dance hall.

The now demolished facility, once located on Wigamog Road, was one of the most prominent locations in the County from the mid-1930s to late 1970s.

"This is a chance to showcase a story from our history – one that we often find ourselves talking to visitors about is the story of the Golden Slipper. There's always lots to tell," Butler said.

If approved, the story will be featured on DMC's community stories portal. The project will feature photographs, artifacts, other archival materials, and community interviews, Butler said.

Flag policy

A new flag flying policy has been officially endorsed by council, introducing consistent rules for raising flags on the community flagpole at A.J. LaRue Arena.

Wilbee noted requests must support residents or events in Dysart, such as public awareness campaigns, and foster a sense of community. Applications will be considered once per year, per organization – if approved, flags will be flown for up to one week.

She noted approved flags must be provided to the municipal office at least five days prior to the requested display date and will only be raised and lowered on weekdays. Wilbee noted flags must be no bigger than three-foot by six-foot.

Once a request has been approved, the flag will enter the annual rotation, meaning organizations don't have to reapply every year. Wilbee said they include the Pride Flag, to be raised during Minden Pride week; the 'Every Child Matters' flag ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; and the 'Wrapped in Courage' flag for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The 'Lest We Forget' poppy flag will be raised for three weeks around Remembrance Day – two before and one after. *(Dysart et al briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

County CAO Gary Dyke said the 2025 budget is "very progressive." *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

County closes book on budget

By Lisa Gervais

County taxpayers will pay an extra $15.97 a month per $100,000 of residential assessment after the upper-tier government passed its 2025 budget at a council meeting Dec. 11.

The budget carries a 4.82 per cent levy increase plus a 1.5 per cent capital levy.

The Minden-based municipality determined it needs nearly $25 million from ratepayers for the coming year, about a $1.7 million increase. The capital levy is to help pay for aging infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and culverts in future. The capital levy will raise more than $358,000. There has also been 1.45 per cent assessment growth to aid the budget.

Treasurer Andrea Robinson told council, "almost 80 per cent of that levy increase is outside of the County's control, with inflation, transfers, and catch up, or loss of funding."

She added staff had utilized reserves along with phasing in new positions in an effort to reduce the required ask in 2025. However, she said that would impact 2026.

CAO Gary Dyke said, "with the challenges being faced, I think we have a very progressive budget. We work very hard in prioritizing our funding into areas that we think are really impactful, while recognizing the demands on the lower-tiers as well as the ratepayers across the County."

Taxpayers give money to their township, the County and the school board.

Coun. Bob Carter said he thought the levy increase "was still too high. At the end of the day, there's less take-home pay for lots of people. And we're already in a tough situation. Each of the municipalities is going to have even more challenging numbers because of the deficit in our infrastructure. I would like us to see what more can possibly be done."

Coun. Liz Danielsen asked for his suggestions on how the levy could be lowered.

Carter said they needed to look at library funding, one of the few discretionary expenditures at the County. He suggested they also look at the tourism department and how much is being spent there.

Dyke said he thought, if anything, they needed to boost spending for tourism and economic development.

As for the overall budget, Dyke added he thought staff had done "an amazing job" with the past two budgets, considering the operation of the County itself is just one per cent of the levy figure. He said if they dropped it further, they would be getting into service cuts "and I'm not quite sure where they'd come from.

"We need a better system in which we collect our revenue. We're stuck in a regressive tax program in which that is the only way the province will let us collect money, and it's broken and it needs to be fixed."

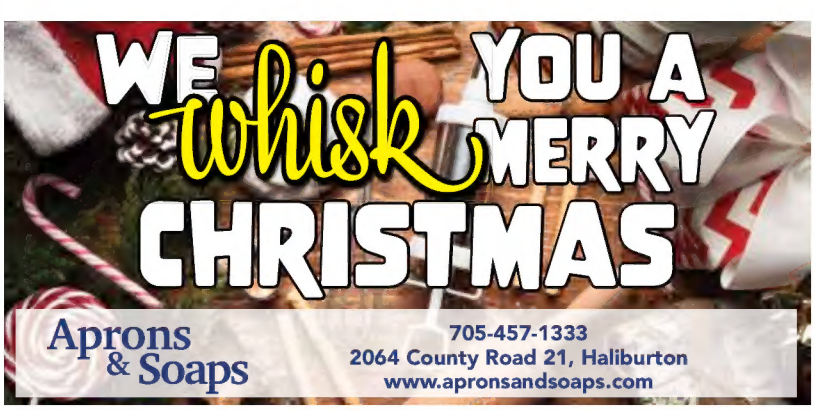
Coun. Cec Ryall added, "it's not just the cost of doing it, it's the cost of not doing it. If we choose not to do it, what is the impact?"

Danielsen said staff had cut the levy in half since the first draft, "so to ask staff to take a look and cut some more is a bit of a knee jerk reaction at this point in time. There's been a lot of work done."

Coun. Carter said he believes there are efficiencies to be found with things such as five roads' departments. He said they talk about efficiencies but are not seeing tangible results. "We can't continue to tax people here so they can no longer afford to live here. We are contributing to the economic problem."

Dyke said he hoped to reinvigorate the service delivery review in 2025 but it would not impact next year's budget.

Council passed the budget.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 AT 7PM
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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Canada

Province must step up

By Mike Baker

The old saying goes that good things come to those who wait.

Thousands of County residents without a family doctor hope that rings true after news broke this week that the Highlands will welcome two new primary care physicians in early 2025.

Dr. Mimi Van Der Leden will join Dr. Lesslie Ponraja at the Kinmount and District Health Centre (KDHC) full-time in February, while Dr. Sharysse Kayoumedjian is taking on a part-time role with the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, arriving in March.

It's the best bit of news many will have heard all year. At the Haliburton practice, this will be the first new addition in more than three years, according to Dr. Norm Bottum. He said Kayoumedjian will be partially taking over Dr. Christina Stephenson's practice following her July 2023 retirement.

In Kinmount, this will be the first time in several years the clinic has boasted two permanent, full-time, non-retiring physicians. Susan Forrester, a KDHC volunteer, said the clinic connected with Van Der Leden over the summer after generating the lead via British Columbia-based recruitment firm Physicians for You. She said KDHC has been working with the organization for several years, also helping to recruit Ponraja,

The clinic uses community donations to pay for the service – though it's contractually obligated not to reveal the sums paid, we suggest its money well spent considering the return.

It begs the question, though – why does physician recruitment, and more pointedly the costs involved, fall almost exclusively on communities? As Bottum puts it in today's front-page story, it's due to decades of underfunding by the provincial government.

Eyes will have rolled earlier this month when the province seemed to take credit for what it believes to be a solution, announcing the first batch of internationally-trained physicians arriving via the new Practice Ready Ontario program. Essentially, it provides a pathway for qualified doctors to fast-track applications to move to, and begin practising in, Ontario.

It's a good initiative – those who qualify are required to complete a three-year return of service as a family physician in a rural or northern community. Twenty-one communities have benefitted so far, including in the far north, Sudbury, Gore Bay, and Cochrane.

Where it falls down is communities, still, are effectively left in a bidding war trying to lure a doctor. I've heard of places offering to buy doctors' houses or cars if they commit to relocating, while others simply cut a cheque – usually in the five or six figures.

That means communities such as Kinmount and Haliburton County often become afterthoughts. The two local practices deserve tremendous praise for being able to beat out literally hundreds of other communities in welcoming Van Der Leden and Kayoumedjian.

Bottum suggests the problem won't get any better until the province ramps up its commitment to train and graduate more doctors in Ontario. A recently announced $88 million Learn and Stay program will provide grants for 1,360 eligible Canadian undergraduates who commit to practising family medicine with a full roster of patients upon graduation.

It's estimated the investment will connect an additional 1.36 million people to primary care by 2028. Important, considering the Ontario Medical Association says 2.3 million people in Ontario don't have a family doctor. That number is expected to double over the next two years.

With Bottum saying the Haliburton practice could do with another three or four physicians, and KDHC actively recruiting for a third doctor, here's hoping there's even more good news come the new year.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Life is grey

By Peter Ferri

As I recover from the U.S. election, I'm grateful my grandparents on both sides immigrated to Canada.

We are very much tied to our southern neighbour; yet I can step back and say proudly I am Canadian. We may look and sound like our American neighbours, but we must celebrate our differences.

Living in this multicultural country allows me to appreciate, explore, and sometimes adopt other cultural practices from the different cultures that make up our cross-country quilt of differences.

Working inside our public school system has allowed me to see, hear, and work with many amazing families and peers through the past 30 years. I have been blessed and honoured to have had the privilege of learning about others and teaching others about life in Canada.

Speaking to, and reminding new Canadians that it is Canada they have chosen as their new home - and not to bring with them any past grievances. We come together as a mosaic. I believe this is the true Canadian vision. People coming together on safe ground to unite under one nation. To share our sameness and celebrate our differences. It's always going to be a changing picture; yet it will always have the same themes and values.

Our Canada comes with a respect for all. It is sometimes hard to remember this when we are inundated with the rush and urgency, and disrespectful battles of our neighbouring nation. Our makeup and values are different. We must honour the differences but not be confused about the end result. They are different. We should celebrate this fact. We must learn from their choices and see the positive impacts but also, more importantly, damages inflicted upon a society that has been paralyzed into polarization.

Right and wrong, good and evil, are constructs of human design working against each other for the sake of domination and power over each other. Life is grey; not black and white, nor right or wrong. Living in Canada, I have learned this about myself and others. It is complex on every level. There is not just "one" perspective, yet there are as many as people.

We must come together to find a truth, and agree upon a truth for an equitable future. It has worked here and will continue to. We can lean into this. Our systems reflect a moreover ability to align with one another. We don't always agree. In fact, it's great we don't. But it is also important we share our differences reflecting respect and honour to our opposition.

Canada is based on a social capitalism model. We believe in making money and getting ahead, but most importantly we support all people, because we understand when we are all looked after, we are a stronger nation. A nation that comes from love of one's partner, children, family, neighbour. Not hate. A nation that puts money and services into place to support all people. We do it in our public education and continue to work towards it in all of societal institutions.

We have many areas of concern, especially with elders, yet we have a voice and processes to enhance our communities. We have procedures and processes to view, experience, and embrace change. It is an always-changing scene. And that is healthy. Transition and change are always important to embrace. Without change we are staid and often unable to open our hearts to something new.

I was always taught that, in Canada, we are welcoming and open to embracing the "new", living into new possibilities and new openings. I'm saddened recently by our southern neighbour's choices, but they are their choices. Not ours. We must continue to make these distinctions. We must continue to support our people so that all people can enjoy a life of freedom and fulfillment. We can and will continue with our Canadian vision.

Peter Ferri is a member of Aging Together as Community.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

James Iglesias took this photo of sunrise on Twelve Mile Lake from his cottage dock facing south on Rock Island. Right: Kimberley Kelly sent in this autumn photo.

LETTER

Thanks from the Friends

Dear editor,

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library would like to thank everyone who contributed to ensuring our 16th annual fundraiser was a resounding success. 150 library supporters were enthralled by actor/author R.H. Thomson's presentation. The Haliburton Legion Branch 129 was an ideal venue. We would like to acknowledge the generous assistance and support of managers Mike and Cheryl Waller.

Gwen Pennylegion, Board member
Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

She has made a difference in the community

By Susan Tromanhauser

The universe was speaking loud and clear to Marie Gage, ultimately leading her to live the life she truly wanted in a place she had never been before – Haliburton County.

It was 1995 and Gage, a hospital worker, and her husband, in the banking industry, both received notices their companies were "right-sizing" and they would need to apply for new positions or take a package. Many couples would be devastated by this turn of events, but the Gages turned it into an opportunity to move up their retirement plans by a couple of decades. They left the security of full-time jobs and started hunting for a resort.

At a Cottage Life Show real estate booth they found a property meeting their requirements. Halfway through the next summer they were the new owners of Willow Beach Resort. While taking over mid-summer ensured a cash flow at the time, Gage found herself giving tourists advice about an area she had yet to explore herself.

Her daughter welcomed and thrived with the change but her son, Martin, 13 at the time, was a little more reluctant. Gage recalls him remarking, "one house is a lot of work, (a resort with) many houses will be a lot more work - and I'm not looking for a job." Gage laughs now at her son's lack of enthusiasm but credits raising her children in a family-run business contributing to them being successful adults. Her daughter now runs her own business locally and Martin is the vice-principal at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

The resort allowed Gage to get to know the seasonal community, and through her work as a part-time occupational therapist, she soon knew all of Haliburton County. She saw people from every walk of life, long-term residents and those integrating into the community.

Once Gage settled in Haliburton she realized, "what an amazing community it is. For a small community, it has everything." And, Gage got involved with everything. She has been on the boards of Point in Time, SIRCH and the Arts Council. Gage also became involved with the management committee of U-Links, a community-based education program connecting university academic research to community partners. Her interest in research was piqued and Gage began to dive into her own family history.

With retirement from the resort in 2009, she used her newfound time to take courses to hone her writing skills. This eventually morphed into writing historical fiction based upon the research of her own family's immigration and settlement to Canada. She is currently working on her third historical fiction novel, using her family research as the backdrop. Her writing led her to join another Haliburton organization, the Algonquin Writers' Group.

Gage assures, "if you have an interest of any kind, there will be a group somewhere" in Haliburton. Gage feels it is an amazing experience to be part of so many things in her adopted home and is proud to say, "she has been able to make a difference in the community."

Marie Gage. *Submitted.*

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OPENS JULY 1

It all starts with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, P. The letter which speaks for itself or, when spelled out, pee, is the central theme to this fast-paced musical, **Urinetown.** As a metaphor for the over-arching intrusion of big corporations into all aspects of our lives, the plucky cast of citizens fights back against the UGC Company. With music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis the cast makes its case for human rights with music, humour, and boycotts as several love stories emerge from the mayhem.

Opens July 1st for seven performances, including three matinees. Recommended for ages 13 and up.*

OPENS JULY 9

Outstanding musicianship and energetic staging that will leave you calling for more - **The Fitzgeralds** have been dazzling audiences for years. We are delighted to include **The Fitzgeralds** in this summer's program, which will feature their lightning-fast fiddling and some equally mesmerizing footwork.

Opens July 9th for three performances including one matinee. Recommended for ages eight and up.*

OPENS JULY 15

For our third show, we turn to the production which opened the Festival 25 years ago, the award-winning **Salt-Water Moon.** This quintessential Canadian play by David French, set in Newfoundland, eight years after the end of the First World War, is a touching love story with the conflicted young lovers over-lain by the memory of the horrors of the war, changing roles for women in society and technological advances. The story of **Salt-Water Moon** resonates as strongly today as it did when we first presented it on our stage in the summer of 2000.

Opens July 15th for seven performances, including two matinees. Recommended for ages 13 and up.*

OPENS JULY 27

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, **Drinking Habits** by Tom Smith. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail as they go undercover as a nun and priest. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

Opens July 27th for six performances, including two matinees. **This production contains mature themes.** Recommended for ages 13 and up.*

OPENS AUG 3

The 2025 summer season closes with **Feeling Bublé,** a Michael Bublé Tribute that captures the feel of a Michael Bublé concert. Jay Davis nails the sound and moves of Michael Bublé while creating a warm and light-hearted atmosphere. Audiences clap and sing along. Be a part of this feel-good performance of music featuring Michael Bublé's greatest hits performed by Jay Davis and his world-class jazz band.

Opening August 3rd for four performances, including one matinee. Recommended for ages 13 and up.*

Police say drivers using cell phones while behind the wheel is a growing problem. *File.*

AROUND THE COUNTY NEWS

Seven drivers charged for cell phone usage

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) charged seven drivers with distracted driving-related offences in two days.

Between Dec. 12 – 13, officers laid numerous traffic-related charges. They conducted R.I.D.E. spot checks as well as doing traffic enforcement with a focus on the 'big four,' which included impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding, and lack of seatbelt use.

OPP said, "the statistics speak for themselves in relation to distracted driving. Seven drivers were charged with driving while on their cell phones. The fine for driving while using a handheld communication device as outlined in the Highway Traffic Act results in a total payable fine of $615 and the loss of three to six demerit points.

They advised the public, that when driving, including when stopped in traffic or at a red light, it is illegal to: use a phone or other hand-held wireless communication device to text or dial - you can only touch a device to call 911 in an emergency; use a hand-held electronic entertainment device, such as a tablet or portable gaming console; view display screens unrelated to driving, such as watching a video; or program a GPS device, except by voice commands.

You are allowed to use hands-free wireless communications devices with an earpiece, lapel button or Bluetooth. You can view GPS display screens as long as they are built into your vehicle's dashboard or securely mounted on the dashboard.

Hali County med students take note

The Kawartha Lakes Medical Society (KLMS), a branch of the Ontario Medical Association, has announced an annual award for a first-year medical student of any Ontario Medical School.

Applicants must be: a resident of the City of Kawartha Lakes (CKL) or Haliburton County for at least two years of the five years before undergraduate study; be enrolled in year one of an Ontario Faculty of Medicine Program; be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident; not an immediate family member of any KLMS member; contributed to the life of the community of CKL or Haliburton County.; and allow community leaders, such as the Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative, the Ross Memorial Hospital and the KLMS to have ongoing communication with the medical student.

Each of the Ontario medical schools will be made aware of the award in conjunction with the Ross Memorial Hospital medical student bursary in early April of each year. Annually, one award of $2,000 will be awarded by Sept. 30. Applications will be received by June 30 of each year through the scholarship officer of the KLMS.

Applicants must provide: name, address and preferred form of communication; resume; evidence of City of Kawartha Lakes or Haliburton County residency and evidence of enrolment in a qualifying faculty of medicine. The executive officers of the KLMS will evaluate all applications and present the award to one student annually.

Send applications electronically or otherwise to: Dr. S-M Young Scholarship Officer Kawartha Lakes Medical Society Branch Society of the OMA sgidney@sympatico.ca PO Box 148 Woodville ON K0M 2T0.

MH launches online system for building permits

Minden Hills has launched a new online system for building permits.

The township said it is for people looking to build, or renovate, in the municipality.

"Applicants will be able to quickly and conveniently submit building permit applications, download approved drawings and permits, and request inspections through the new Cloudpermit system," the town said.

Online payment options will be coming soon.

If you are looking for a building permit, you will need to create a Cloudpermit account and fill out the application form. An instructional video is available that provides assistance with the submission process. To find out if a project requires a permit, and to fill out the permit, go to mindenhills.ca/buildingandrenovating/. Access to the Cloudpermit portal is on their website.

(Around the County news compiled by Lisa Gervais).

Sir Sam's becomes community ski hill

By Lisa Gervais

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride has become a community-owned ski hill with six families investing in the Eagle Lake business, and another three or four expected to join.

Former sole owner, Doug Wilkinson, said Dec. 16 that a mix of families from the Eagle Lake and Haliburton areas had come onboard.

While the Wilkinson family will retain 20 per cent ownership, the new families include the Greenleys, Campbells, Delameres, Hayes, and Hamiltons.

They responded to the Wilkinson's offer last spring to buy into the tourism establishment.

They have also struck a board of directors, led by new chair, Mike Greenley.

"This is an exciting time for Sir Sam's and the broader community, as the facility goes through the next phase of its growth. It is essential that Sir Sam's meets the recreational and entertainment interests of the local community, while also welcoming visitors to our area on a regular basis," he said.

Greenley added, "I am excited to join the ownership group of Sir Sam's and to take the role of chair of the ownership board of directors as we support David Bishop, our new general manager. Sir Sam's has been a key part of my extended family's life for over a decade and I am eager to help lead its growth into the future."

Wilkinson had committed to three years of ownership and last spring the family went out to the community to offer part of the hill for sale. The first round closed in early November. They have begun a second round.

The ski hill opened the Dec. 14-15 weekend.

Wilkinson added the new board will provide oversight and strategic direction for the hill. "Everybody is very much aligned on making sure the hill survives for the long-term, and is thriving for the betterment of the overall community, which will allow future generations to enjoy the hill like we have, so that's a big deal for me, which is great."

He said the move further "allows me to do exactly what the original plan was two to three years ago, as an investor, not owner, to use the proceeds from the equity raised on the hill to invest in other businesses in the Haliburton County area. We are looking for complementary businesses in the area of fun; other outdoor activities or businesses that provide fun for folks that come to the County, or live in the County."

But for now, he said, "we're glad we could hold to the commitment that we made back in the spring about opening it up and turning it into a community hill."

If anyone is interested in discussing investment with Wilkinson, he can be reached at doug@sirsams.com.

Top: Skiers, a chairlift, and the new tower. Right: A skier skis 'switch' down the run. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Scholarship Program wishes to thank you for your continued support. Words cannot express how much your donation means to the students of HHSS.
Melissa Stephens, chairperson

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HHSS RED HAWKS

County paramedic Chris Parish with MPP Laurie Scott at Queen's Park. *Submitted.*

County paramedic honoured for 30-plus years of service

By Lisa Gervais

When Haliburton County paramedic Chris Parish started working in the Highlands 33 years ago, he was an ambulance driver attendant.

"We would go as fast as we could, do minimal care, and drive to the hospital. It was called scoop and run," he recalled in a recent interview. He added they worked all day, and were on call all night.

Nowadays, Parish said paramedics are highly-trained to deliver care in the field. He has gone from an ambulance driver attendant, to an ambulance officer, and now a paramedic. They can perform some skills that were once only performed by doctors.

Recalling the early 90's when he began his career, Parish said, "we started with symptom relief. For example, we had nitroglycerin for chest pain. We weren't treating anything. And then it expanded in scope to having more medications. For example, we used to have epinephrine to treat a bee sting. Now you have epinephrine and you can follow it up with Benadryl and even Ventolin to clear their lungs if need be. It's nice to get to the hospital and the doctor says, 'what do you want me to do'?"

He said the terminology is 'treat and refer.' He said rather than taking patients to hospital, in some cases, they can treat them in the field and they can stay at home with follow-up treatment with community paramedicine, or the diabetes education network, for example.

Just recently, Parish said he and his team went in for training on supraventricular tachycardia, a type of irregular heartbeat. He said they used to take people to hospital but now paramedics can do procedures in the home to convert the rhythm. "It's better for them. It's better for the system. Things like that have really changed."

He said they're also providing palliative care to keep people out of hospital, and at home. "We have a little bag of tricks and drugs that we can give to make them more comfortable."

The training is so rigorous these days that paramedics have to recertify with the base hospital twice a year.

Honoured at Queen's Park

In late November, Parish was one of 73 Ontario paramedics honoured at Queen's Park for 30-plus years of service.

He was born and raised in Toronto but his parents were both from the Highlands. He worked here part-time while still in school. He was offered a full-time job in the County and has never looked back. He said he was never a city person.

"I've always liked it up here, coupled with the fact I got a job that was paying a living wage." He said it's a different pace and can be "good and bad" since you often know your patients.

However, in his view, "Haliburton County gets it done." He references volunteer firefighters. "They come out every day and do what we get paid to do, and they're a great resource that you wouldn't get in Toronto, because they know people. They know that back road or they know that hunting camp." He lauds the relationship with police and the base hospital.

He has seen it all: bringing babies into the world and being at people's sides when they take their last breath. And tragedies that have stuck with him.

His love of community makes it a natural for him to head up community paramedicine. "Had community paramedicine not come along. I'm not sure I'd still be working. I am not the 'lights and sirens racing down the highway' kind of guy. That's why I like community paramedicine. You get to spend time with your patients, you get to know them, and it's not always a crisis."

While knowledge of post-traumatic stress disorder for first responders has increased in recent years, Parish said, "you have to know what you're getting into. You're going to see some horrible things. You learn to live with it."

As for getting the accolade at Queen's Park? "You know, it is kind of a big deal but you don't really think about it. It's kind of corny but people invite us into their lives at the worst possible point in their life in a lot of cases. So, it's kind of an honor to be able to support them through that."

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HOLIDAY RECYCLING

Recycling for Containers

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Aluminum foil and trays | Metal food cans | Beverage cartons | Plastic bottles (caps can be left on) | Plastic candy, fruit, veggie trays

Recycling for Papers

Paper gift wrap | Paper gift tags | Paper gift bags (remove string) | Christmas cards & envelopes | Cardboard rolls | Cardboard boxes (flatten)

Garbage

Metallic or foil wrapping paper | Ribbons, bows, tape | Styrofoam shipping block | Bubble wrap | Broken ornaments | Plastic toy packaging (hard-to-cut material)

Dysart Landfill Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve)
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: West Guilford
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay
Closed: Haliburton

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (Christmas Day)
Closed: All Dysart Landfills

Thursday, December 26, 2024 (Boxing Day)
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Haliburton, West Guilford
12 noon to 5 p.m.: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay

Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (New Year's Eve)
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: West Guilford
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay
Closed: Haliburton

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (New Year's Day)
Closed: All Dysart Landfills

Thursday, January 2, 2025
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Haliburton
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay
Closed: West Guilford

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

The Highlander will not be publishing
Dec. 26, 2024 and Jan. 2, 2025.
The Highlander Staff are taking a well earned break.
Our office will be closed Dec. 20, 2024 – Jan. 6, 2025.

Thank you to all of our advertisers and supporters, we hope you have a festive Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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HALIBURTON BIA

Contest CLOSES 11:59 PM December 20, 2024
Draw will take place at the Moose FM station in Haliburton at NOON on December 21.
Winner will be notified by phone.

Contest open to all legal residents of Ontario. Adult prize winner(s) must be 19 of years of age or older. Grand prize winner receives a total of $1500.00 (one thousand, five hundred dollars) in gifts certificate(s) from any Haliburton BIA member. Gifts certificate(s) can be one in the full amount of $1500, or multiple denominations of no less than $100. The grand prize total is not to exceed $1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.

Wrapping it up at HSAD

The Haliburton School of Art + Design held a market for its students to showcase the creations and designs they had made this past semester in their respective programs. On Dec. 14, the market gave both an opportunity to the students to get a chance to sell their works and give exposure to the public, and also for the college to highlight some of their courses.

Top left: Janet Coates and Alyssa Baran pose with ceramic pieces at the front door. Top right: Manchen Zhou happily stand in front of her pottery. Middle right: Adrien Fera gives the camera a look-back in front of her favourite piece from this semester. Middle left: Pratyush Reddy stands proudly beside her favourite work of art. Above left: Angus Macpherson smiles beside his blacksmithing works of art. Above right: An animated Logan Patrick yuks it up for the camera.
Photos by Justin Belanger.

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24
7pm

Eagle Lake Community Church
2605 Eagle Lake Road

All are welcome to join us for Christmas carols and readings.

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
617 Mountain St., Haliburton

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please join us for the upcoming Christmas services.

Festival of Lessons and Carols – December 22nd at 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24th
Carol Singing at 7:15 pm, Service at 7:30 pm

Christmas Day Service – December 25th at 10:30 am

First Sunday after Christmas Service
December 29th at 10:30 am

New Year's Day Service – January 1st at 10:30 am

Celebrate Christ's birth with us!
All are welcome!

The Reverend Dr. Connie Phillipson
office@haliburtonanglican.ca | 705-457-2074
www.haliburtonanglican.org

St. Paul's Anglican Church
19 Invergordon Ave., Minden

December 22
Christmas Pageant ~ 4 pm

If you are travelling out of town or unable to attend Christmas Eve Service, you are welcome to join us for

Early Christmas Eve Service
December 22 ~ 5 pm
Followed by a light supper

December 24 Christmas Eve Services
St. Peter's Anglican Maple Lake ~ 1:00 pm
St. James Anglican Kinmount ~ 3:00 pm
St. Paul's Anglican Minden ~ 5:00 pm

December 25 Christmas Day
St. Paul's Minden
Christmas Day Morning Service ~ 10:30 am
Christmas Day Dinner ~ 12:00 noon

If the weather is bad, or it's too far to travel out of town for family Christmas Dinner, or maybe you just don't feel like cooking, you are welcome to join us for Christmas Day Dinner. In order to plan for number attending the Christmas Dinner, it 's appreciated if you could please call or email the Church office to reserve a spot; if you cannot call ahead you are still welcome to join us. Church Office Phone: 705-286-2541; Rev. Canon Joan 705-492-5858; office email mkmlanglican@gmail.com

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Canoe FM Begins On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario.**

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025.**

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any **comments or concerns,** please reach out to us by:

Email: manager@canoefm.com

Phone: 705-457-1009

After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County.

Thank you for your support as we improve Canoe FM's reach to serve more of our amazing community!

Canoe FM – Community Radio
The Voice of the Haliburton Highlands

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www.canoefm.com

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Top left: these two get into the Christmas spirit. Top right: hamming it up for the crowd. Middle left: all smiles. Middle: Exuberance was the order of the day. Middle right: Some reindeer action. Above: This class came dressed for winter. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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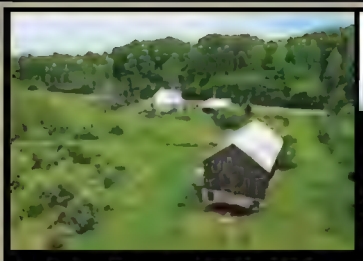
REMARKABLE REALTORS



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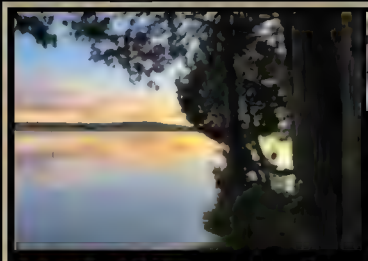
Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

Merry Christmas Everyone!
- Have a holly, jolly Christmas and a fantastic New Year! See you in 2025!



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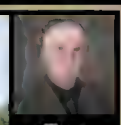

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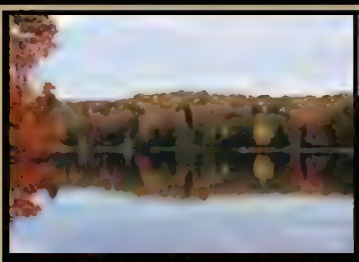

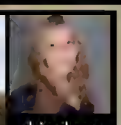

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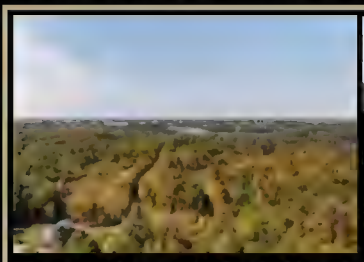

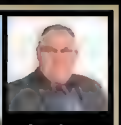

Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Tom Bolton Rd Building Lots
- Pt 3 – 8.7-acres offered for $175,000
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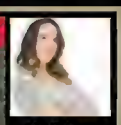
Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

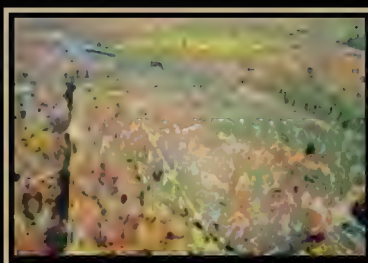
Happy Holidays!
- Warmest wishes for the holiday season to all of our clients and friends!

NEW LISTING



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Minden Home $600,000
- 4-Bdrm, 2-Bath Bungalow, 1,600 SqFt
- Short Walk to Downtown Minden
- Many Recent Upgrades, Main Flr Laundry



Brandon Nimigon*** (289) 259-1952

Gelert Road $135,000
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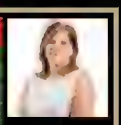

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Tattersal Road
- 3 Beds / 2 Baths, 1,200+ SqFt
- Expansive 15 Acre Property, Large Deck
- Screened Rm, Detch'd Garage, Hot Tub

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Unicorn Road $1,499,000
- Custom executive bungalow on 4.5 acres in the coveted Gainforth Estates
- 2800+ SqFt, Attached 23x30 Garage

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Lumberjack's Diner $749,000
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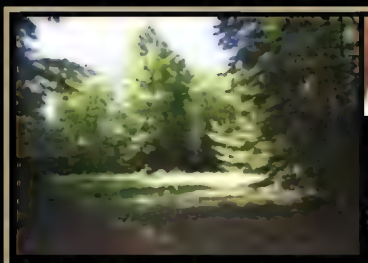

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Harburn Road $159,000
- Easy Access 2+ Acre Lot, Driveway In
- Yr Round Municipal Rd, Hydro Available
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Greg Stamp* (705) 455-2231

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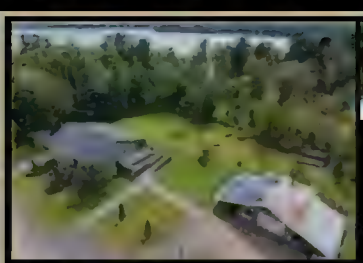

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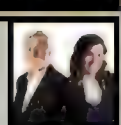

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Reinvigorating community spirit in Minden

By Mike Baker

Dominion Hotel owner Shawn Chamberlin said this is the first time in years he's felt the Christmas spirit truly take hold in Minden village.

The Newcastle Street restaurateur paid homage to township staff and community volunteers, led by Anne Campbell, who helped decorate the downtown over the holidays, creating a fun and festive atmosphere for shoppers, business owners and staff.

"The downtown is beautiful – folks are saying nice things about Minden and that is helping to boost all our pride. I have no doubt in my mind that decorating [encouraged] visitors to come to Minden," Chamberlin told *The Highlander*.

A former vendor, having previously owned Unique Floral Designs on Bobcaygeon Road, Campbell decided she wanted to work with township staff to expand on the usual winter décor that goes up this time of year. She collaborated with town hall, the Minden and District Horticultural Society, and other volunteers, deciding on creating a clan of Christmas gnomes for the strip.

Campbell hosted a workshop at the Minden Community Centre in early November, with more than a dozen people attending. There, they made gnomes out of discarded evergreen branches Campbell found in the area and decorated them.

The gnomes were transported to the village green ahead of the community's tree lighting ceremony Nov. 15 and were in place for that weekend's Santa Claus parade.

"The end result was a very charming and inviting shopping area for Minden that was all ready for Santa's arrival," said Mary McCrae, one of the participants. "Citizens, especially the children, have been thrilled and very excited with the Christmas gnomes."

Fellow volunteers Bernie and Jim Davis agreed – noting how the gnomes, or rather what they represent, have reinvigorated a sense of community in Minden.

"We see a reawakening of this spirit, being proud about Minden, the place we all choose to live – and it seems to be revived by this vision, passion, and actions of Anne Campbell," said Bernie. "We can feel the spirit of engagement coming out of hiding."

Campbell said she is simply continuing the work of the late Sinclair Russell, who, for years, championed community spirit in the downtown. She felt organizing the workshop and coordinating the placement of decorations was no big deal – something she was happy to do to spruce up shop fronts and encourage more people to visit.

Anne Walker from Rising Thymes said the effort has made a huge difference.

"Everybody's spirits are up – just even with all the girls who were helping… the energy this has created has been infectious," Walker said. "After COVID, anything that can be done to draw a smile, to get things back to the way they were, is important. And the gnomes are quite attractive looking little things."

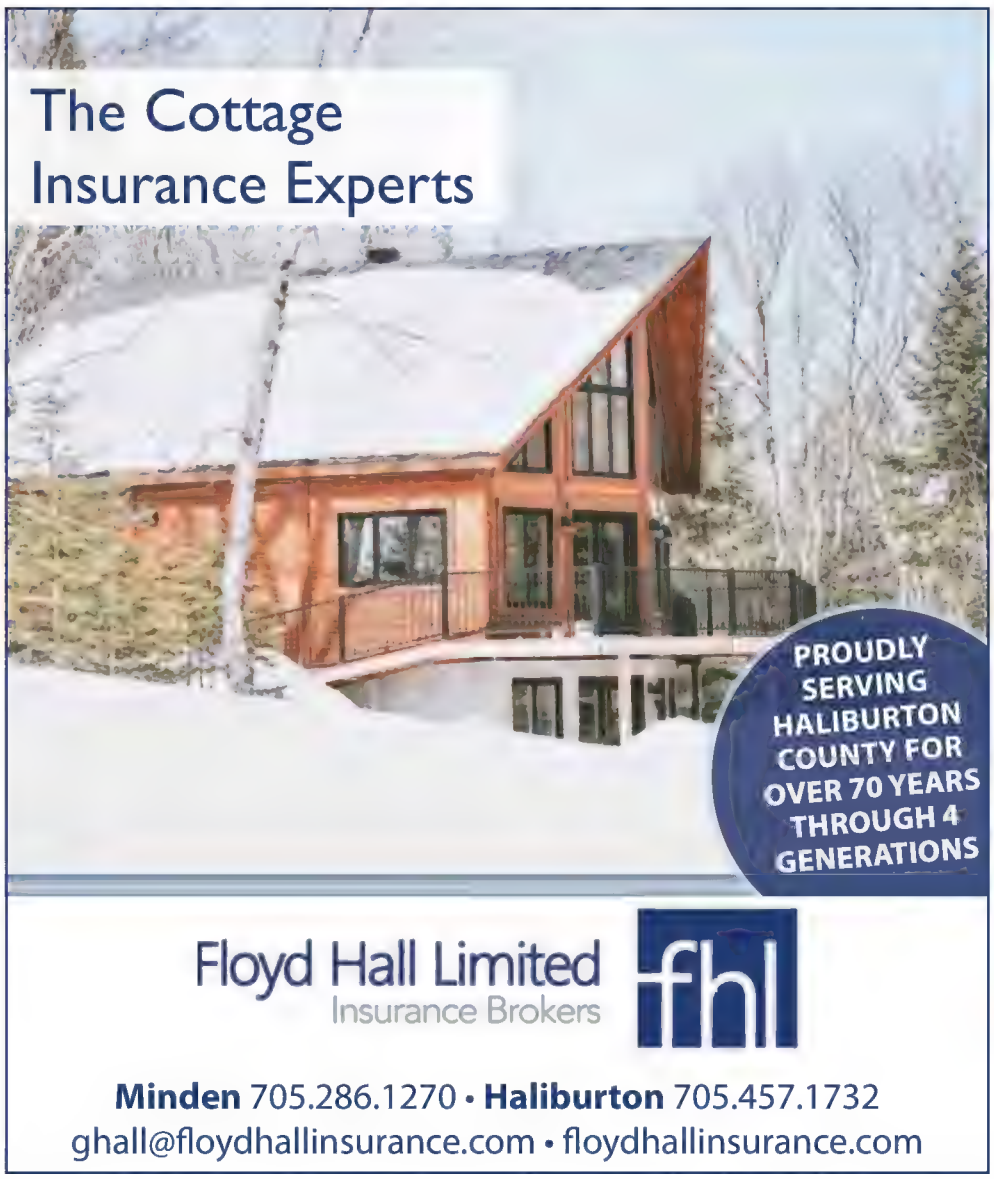
Volunteers including Minden Hills coun. Shirley Johannessen (second from left), residents Jim and Bernie Davis, and business owner Mary Douglas. *Submitted.*

Mary Douglas, who helped with the effort, said it's been a quiet year at her Let's Shop Local location, commenting that anything that brings more people to the downtown is a positive.

"There's a lot of unique stories here… it's been a tough few years, but things are getting better. This effort has helped, and it was nice to see so many other business owners getting involved," Douglas said.

Minden Hills coun. Shirley Johannessen said this effort is a great reminder of what can be achieved when the community comes together. She believes the gnomes have added character to the downtown.

"I loved the idea of volunteers getting together to put some fun into our town. Not only was the finished product fabulous, but the coming together of different ideas and skills really showed me how versatile and creative we can all be together," Johannessen said.



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Winner winner Christmas dinner

Participants of the upcoming Europe trip and the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School cooking class hosted a European Christmas market and traditional dinner featuring treats from England, France, Switzerland and Germany Dec. 11. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Top left: Katie Rieger and Gerry Sheehey approve of their dinners. Top right: Olivia Irvine holds up one of her hoodies with a built-in bug face screen, she even has a patent pending. Middle: Christmas dinner. Above left: Haydee Billings shows off her 3-D printing creations. Above right: The hungry crowd surrounds the Christmas dinner buffet. Left: Chef Darla Searle serves up the turkey.
Photos by Justin Belanger.

Welcome Winter

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Free programs for families with children newborn to 6 years.

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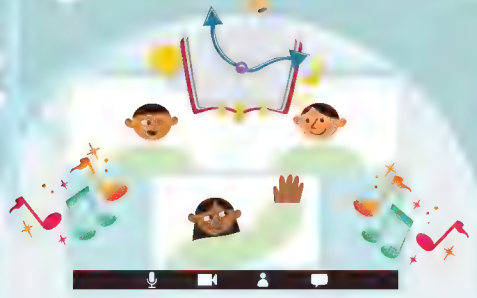
Baby Programs



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Left: Travis Mann gets the puck to the net. Right: Matthew Mueller blasts a shot. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

U13 LL Storm Yellow impress at Silver Stick

The U13 LL Highland Storm Casey Water Wells & Geothermal Inc. competed in the International Silver Stick tournament this past weekend.

The Storm had an amazing Saturday. They stormed in, starting the day off strong against Tweed Hawks, winning 7-0.

Their second game was much the same, winning 12-0 against the Bancroft Jets.

The team's third game against Lakefield Chiefs was a back-and-forth battle with the Storm coming out on top with a 4-3 win.

On Sunday, the Storm fought a hard battle against Ennismore, losing 4-3 and, unfortunately, eliminating them from the tournament.

The team executed everything asked of them in practice: excelling in controlling the game, passing the puck, communicating with each other, and working as a team. Hard work was displayed by all of the players. Great weekend, Storm Yellow, the coaches are proud of each and every one of you.

Storm Casey Water Wells & Geothermal Inc. will continue their regular season with another busy weekend ahead. They play away on Friday and Saturday night and then have a home game on Sunday in Haliburton at 3 p.m. against Kawartha. Please come out and cheer on the team. *Submitted.*

SCORE BOARD

Dec. 10

- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Lindsay 4-2 W
- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Sturgeon 7-1 L
- U13 LL Curry Chevrolet vs Sturgeon 7-2 W

Dec. 11

- U13 LL Curry Chevrolet vs Lindsay 4-1 L
- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Sturgeon 6-6 T

Dec. 12

- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Sturgeon 3-0 L
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 4-2 W

Dec. 13

- U15 Rep Haliburton Timber Mart vs Ennismore - exhibition game 5-4 L
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Millbrook 3-2 L

Dec. 14

- U11 LL Minden Carquest vs Woodville 2-0 W

Dec. 15

- U11 LL Minden Carquest vs Sturgeon 4-0 L
- U11 Rep Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Millbrook 3-2 L
- U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Brock 2-1 W
- U13 LL Curry Chevrolet were crowned the A champs at this weekend's International Silver Stick home tournament.

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Forward Chase Del Colombo cuts a hard turn towards the puck. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Huskies keeping pace with rivals in standings

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay said he's been impressed by a recent run that has seen his team win six of its last seven games, including two this week, to keep pace with rivals atop the Ontario Junior Hockey League's East Conference.

With two games to play before the league goes on a Christmas break, Ramsay is calling on his team to draw inspiration from the festive season and do their best Ebenezer Scrooge impressions with pivotal games against the Markham Royals and Trenton Golden Hawks on the horizon - give nothing away.

The team travels to Markham Dec. 20 before welcoming the table-topping Golden Hawks to town Dec. 21. The latter will be a major test of the Huskies' credentials, with the Golden Hawks undefeated in 19 games and losing just once since their last visit to the Highlands – a 5-4 home win Oct. 12.

"It's a big game, probably our biggest of the year yet… going in, we've got to try to keep the guys focused and not thinking too far ahead. At the end of the day, they're kids – big kids – and they're excited to get home for the holidays… but we have a job to do first," Ramsay said. "With the standings the way they are, these four points coming up are huge."

The Huskies sit third in the division with 23 wins and nine losses, good for 46 points – five back of the Toronto Jr. Canadiens in second and 12 behind the Golden Hawks.

In recent wins over the Pickering Panthers, a 4-1 victory in Minden Dec. 14, and the Lindsay Muskies, a 4-2 win in a rare midweek afternoon tilt on the road Dec. 17, Ramsay credited some of his team's depth players for stepping up.

Co-captain Ty Petrou remains out with an upper-body injury, while points leader Nathan Poole – who has 15 goals and 30 assists in 45 games – missed Tuesday's 'Battle of Hwy. 35'.

"We've had some guys really step up to the plate and show they can be leaders. They've really stood up to the challenge and I think we showed great resilience getting another four points," Ramsay said.

Huskies 4-2 Lindsay

It was a horror start for the blue and white, who found themselves two goals behind within minutes in Lindsay.

"The first 10 minutes were probably our worst as a team this year," Ramsay said, with Joaquin Gonzalez and Nole Faulkner beating Huskies netminder Tyler Hodges back-to-back at 2:34 and 3:10 to start the game.

The Huskies rallied late in the first as they chased the Muskies. Deandres De Jesus potted his 20th of the season at 15:19, a powerplay marker assisted by Declan Bowmaster and Cameron Hankai. Seventeen-year-old defenceman Hankai levelled the game at 19:17.

Hodges stood tall in the second, turning away all 11 Muskies shots as Haliburton took control. The team had to wait until 5:54 into the third for the go-ahead goal, Stefan Forgione blasting in his second of the year, teed up by Luke Hampel and Isaac Larmand.

Larmand made sure of the result with a powerplay goal late in the period, assisted by Forgione and Hankai, who had a three-point game.

Huskies 4-1 Pickering

It was a comfortable afternoon on home ice Saturday for the Huskies, who led for almost the entire game.

Poole helped himself to his 15th goal of the year 1:11 in, assisted by Alex Bradshaw and Hankai. Six-foot-three power forward Bradshaw went from set-up man to goal scorer at 9:10, ripping one past Gavin Betts in the Pickering net to give the home side some breathing room. Poole and Bowmaster had points on the tally – Bowmaster's first since rejoining the Huskies earlier this month.

Blake Wright pegged the Huskies back 30 seconds into the final frame, but Ryder Dagenais shut down any hope of a comeback at 2:31 with his eighth of the year. Lodoen added a shorthanded empty netter with seconds remaining to add some gloss to the score.

Hodges made 36 saves in the win.

"He's making saves when we need him to, which really helps the confidence of the team," Ramsay said.

After the Golden Hawks visit Dec. 21, puck drop at 4 p.m., the Huskies welcome the Stouffville Spirit Dec. 29 and the Muskies Dec. 31. Both games have a special 2 p.m. start time.

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Putting 'happy' back in the holidays

By Lisa Gervais

Even with chestnuts roasting on an open fire and Jack Frost nipping at your nose, Five Counties Children's Centre says stress and upheaval can make the holidays far from happy for some families.

They're offering a simple phrase to kids and parents: celebrating the season can still be merry and bright when it's managed right.

"Parents and caregivers often feel guilty and pressured to have the picture-perfect holiday that they see on social media or in the movies, but that isn't always the reality," says Nicole Captain, an occupational therapist with Five Counties. "The fact is we can still enjoy happy holidays if we keep things simple, stick to structure, go back to basics, and are flexible."

Caregiver burnout and stress associated with parenting is real, according to the U.S. Office of the Surgeon General. It released a 'Parents Under Pressure advisory report' last summer that looked at the mental health and well-being of parents. In the report, two-fifths of U.S. parents indicated feeling "so stressed they cannot function." Roughly half of parents called their stress "completely overwhelming."

While numbers aren't readily available in Canada, Captain says similar pressures on parents and caregivers aren't limited by borders, and stress can be magnified over the holidays.

Captain, who works in school-based rehabilitation services at Five Counties, provides occupational therapy support to students and often discusses self-regulation with classes. It's these tips that she feels families can benefit from during the holiday season.

"I always tell parents to put on your oxygen mask first to meet your own regulation needs and support your nervous system, so that you can support your child's needs," Captain said.

To help make the holidays more manageable, Five Counties offers the following tips:

Practice makes progress

- The holidays come with excitement, anticipation, and altered routines. Captain suggests caregivers help children cope with change by helping them prepare for what's ahead.
- A visual schedule (or calendar) is ideal to help a child see what is being planned. It can set out what's going on a certain day or week before, or during, the holidays - helping children understand what to expect. Including breaks or downtime in the schedule can benefit the entire family to self-regulate and recharge.
- If travelling to see family or friends for the holidays, photos or maps can be useful tools to help prepare kids for where and with whom they may visit.
- Discussing holiday plans as a family can also help manage change and expectations. It can also be a chance to build buy-in by selecting activities that everyone would like to do together.

Back to basics

It's important to control the variables that you can. This means:

- Getting enough rest and sticking to sleep schedules, and even selecting a quiet space where family members can rejuvenate.
- Eating well and staying well-hydrated.

"It's really going back to the basics," Captain says. "We're optimizing our bodies on the inside to cope with all the stress and changes that go on outside and around us."

Unplug

While technology is part of everyday life, too much time in front of a screen can impact a child's sleep, behaviour, routine and anxiety levels. According to Captain, part of what makes a happy holiday is unplugging from devices and making meaningful connections as a family. That means spending time together as a family and, as parents and caregivers, being fully involved, present and engaged with kids.

"While being together doesn't require a lot of preparation, make it quality time to really forge that connection," Captain adds.

If spending time in front of a screen, do so as a family, but be mindful to avoid devices too close to bedtime, as it can overstimulate a child and affect their sleep.

Tap the power of play

While the holidays can be hectic, they do provide an opportunity to have fun outdoors by being active together. For Captain, the power of play is one of the best ways to refresh and make the season more festive and fun. "I know going outdoors in the winter months in Canada isn't something we all like to do, but the importance of sunlight, fresh air, and activity are important for everyone to feel their best," she notes.

Five Counties Children's Centre clinician Nicole Captain offers tips on how families can manage the festive season, with the aim of putting 'happy' back into the holidays. *Submitted.*

- Families can be purposeful and organized in choosing outdoor activities to do together. "There's time to run around in the snow, but planning a scavenger hunt, designing a snow fort, building a snowman, or trying to see how many animals you can spot in 10 minutes can maximize that outdoor experience," she says.
- If the weather outside is frightful, the power of play can also be applied indoors – whether creating an obstacle course, doing a puzzle, or trying out a fun, interactive activity like Cosmic Kids Yoga.

As the holidays approach, Captain says how families approach the festive season can make it magical and memorable for all the right reasons. "Pick what works for your family," she says, "and do what you can – and happy holidays can be within our reach."

For more resources, visit the Five Counties website at: fivecounties.on.ca/happy-holiday-tips/.

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EVENTS

Dec. 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Who wants to listen to live Christmas carols while enjoying a freshly-made lunch? Come to the SIRCH Bistro for some Christmas fun with local musician Gord Kidd. Note, this is a special holiday musical event and is not part of the 'Lunch is On Us' program.

Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Santa Ski Day at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride. Dress up as Santa and ski for free. There will be activities throughout the day, with the annual tree lighting, and new lookout tower lighting, beginning at dusk. Live music by Drew and Krew with an ugly Christmas sweater party in the chalet to follow.

Dec. 25, 4 to 7 p.m.
Will you be on your own this Christmas? Or are you interested in helping out and enjoying a community dinner? Be a part of SIRCH Community Services' free Christmas dinner with turkey and all the fixings. At the SIRCH Bistro at 49 Maple Ave. Sponsored by Todd's Independent. Everyone is welcome.

Jan. 3
Join local crafters at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for the UnFinished Objects (UFO) craft group. Bring your unfinished projects and enjoy a relaxing session working alongside others. The group will continue to gather twice a month on Fridays, with the next session on Jan. 17. Other dates are Feb. 7 and 21, March 7 and 21, April 4 and 25, May 9 and 23, and June 6 and 20.

Haliburton Highlands Writers and editors Network. Meet on the third Thursday of every month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Gather and meet members, read stories, general news. For more information contact Kay Millard at 705-286-6635.

Join the Haliburton County Public Library for family story time, weekly from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Minden library and Thursdays at the Dysart library. Appropriate for children up to the age of six. Must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a $1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets $1 each, available in the Clubroom.
Clubroom hours: Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Coboconk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. $15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mon: 7 to 10 p.m.
Wed: 2 to 6 p.m.
Thurs: 2 to 10 p.m.
Fri: 2 to 11 p.m.
Sat: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sun: Special events only

Tree of Warmth: the legion is accepting donations of new mittens, scarves and hats. The donations will be provided to students at Wilberforce and Cardiff elementary schools.

Darts on Dec. 23, and 30. From 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is $5 per person.

Indoor cornhole on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. Cost is $5 per person.

Wings and jam session Dec. 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per person.

Meat draw on Dec. 21, and 28 at 3 p.m.

New Year's Eve dance party Dec. 31. Cost is $25 for members and $30 for non-members. Food provided. Spot dance prizes available. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

HIGHLANDS OPERA COMMUNITY School

DO YOU HAVE A STORY FROM OR ABOUT HALIBURTON COUNTY? DO YOU LIVE IN THE REGION?

We want to hear from YOU!

BRING YOUR STORY TO LIFE ONSTAGE with singers, musical accompaniment and the magic of sets, costumes and lighting!

Missed our Info Session on December 2nd? ***WATCH IT HERE →***

Learn about the Highlands Opera Community School's NEW year long 'LET'S MAKE OPERA!' Pilot Project funded in full by the Ontario Trillium Foundation bringing the entire process of creating opera to Haliburton County!

YOUR STORY + YOUR MUSIC + YOUR COMMUNITY = OPERA!

ACCEPTING STORY SUBMISSIONS UNTIL JANUARY 15th. 3-4 stories will be chosen for the 'Let's Make Opera!' year long project and announced later in January (date TBD).

Send submissions to valerie@highlandsoperastudio.com

Ontario Trillium Foundation / Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario

THE HIGHLANDS OPERA COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROVIDES YEAR ROUND OPERA-BASED ACTIVITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF HALIBURTON COUNTY INCLUDING PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN (PWYC) SINGING LESSONS (ALL STYLES OF MUSIC) AND HIGHLANDS OPERA APPRECIATION CLUB(S). FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND/IO VISIT THE HOS WEBSITE AND CLICK ON COMMUNITY SCHOOL TO LEARN MORE.

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JULY 25 - AUGUST 26 *HEAR SOME OF THE BEST YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SINGERS FROM ACROSS CANADA & BEYOND!*

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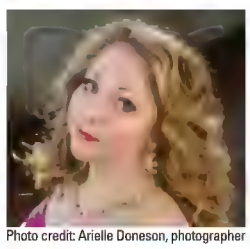
TICKETS ON SALE NOW! REDUCED HOLIDAY PRICING UNTIL JANUARY 15TH!

ORFEO ED EURIDICE - C. W. Gluck
Based on the mythical story of eternal love between Orfeo and his beloved wife, Euridice, and his journey to bring her back from the underworld. One of the most important Baroque operas, our production will feature internationally acclaimed singers, German counter-tenor, NILS WANDERER, as Orfeo and Canadian soprano, LAUREN MARGISON, as Euridice. Two performances presented in Italian with English Surtitles.

'LET'S MAKE OPERA!' Workshop!
Be the first to hear the NEW OPERAS based on stories from Haliburton County, composed and performed by artists of Haliburton County! SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS in this creative project! One performance only!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HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO HALIBURTON

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FUNDRAISER, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2:30PM, DOWNTOWN TORONTO

For more information and to purchase tickets visit:
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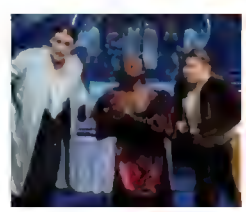

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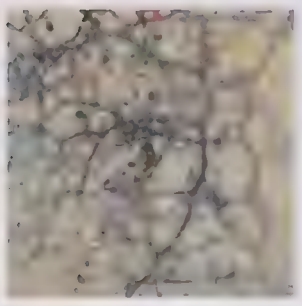

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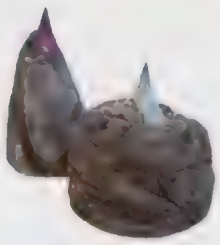

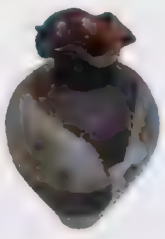

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MINDEN HILLS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2024030: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Canning Lake, lying in front of 1027 Ketola Lane located within Part Lot 15, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon.

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

MINDEN HILLS

Notice of Complete Applications and Public Meetings Concerning Zoning By-Law Amendments

Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills has received complete applications to amend the Township's Zoning By-law.

And Take Notice that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendment during the Public Meeting.

Date and Location of Public Meetings

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Hybrid Meeting (In-person in Township Council Chambers and Electronic via Zoom)

The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider zoning by-law amendment applications **PLZBA2024061** and **PLZBA2024067** pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendment.
The zoning by-law amendment applications for Public Meeting are listed below:

PLZBA2024061 - Part Lot 12, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, being 2513 Davis Lake Road (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect: The subject property is currently zoned 'General Industrial Exception Five (M1-5)' and is located within the Rural designation of the Township's Official Plan. The current zoning on the property permits the use of the land as a salvage yard. The property is occupied by a dwelling, which is a permitted accessory use to an operating salvage yard. As a salvage yard no longer operates on the property, the landowners are proposing to use the land for residential uses only. The zoning by-law amendment would serve to rezone the property from 'General Industrial Exception Five (M1-5)' zone to 'Rural (RU)' zone to permit the principal use of the property for residential uses.

PLZBA2024067 - Part Lot 16, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon, being 1237 Ingoldsby Road, Canning Lake (see Key Map).

Purpose and Effect: The subject property is currently zoned 'Shoreline Residential (SR)' and is located within the Waterfront designation of the Township's Official Plan. The property owners are proposing to tear down two (2) boathouses in order to construct one (1) new boathouse. Existing boathouses may be reconstructed on the same footprint, inclusive of size, height and location. The height of the boathouse will remain unchanged. The ground floor area of the boathouse will increase from a combined 88 square metres (947 square feet) to 90.24 square metres (971 square feet). A new location for the boathouse is also proposed and to be setback 5.5 metres (18 feet) from the high water mark of Canning Lake. The zoning by-law amendment would rezone the property from 'Shoreline Residential (SR)' zone to 'Shoreline Residential Exception (SR-E)' zone to permit the construction of the boathouse. In accordance with the Official Plan, reconstruction of the boathouse will be subject to site plan control under Section 41 of the Planning Act.

To Watch: Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting in person can do so by attending the Township Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden. Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting virtually can do so by joining the **Meeting Live Stream Link on YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/@townshipofmindenhills4716

To Participate in Person: Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting must: pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday January 8th before 4:00 PM or by registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM in the **Township Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street, Minden.**

To Participate via Zoom on the Web or by Telephone please email admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday January 8th before 4:00 PM to obtain login information. **If attending virtually, please log-on 30 minutes before the meeting.**

Written Submissions either in support of or opposition to the application must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Please Note: We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. **Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting the** Township website at: https://www.mindenhills.ca/council/

The live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Additional Information regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or on the Township website. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at adougherty@mindenhills.ca or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext. 506).

Any Person may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If You Wish to Be Notified of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Amanda Dougherty
Manager of Planning
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359
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FOR RENT - 1 bedroom shared accommodation, large bath, kitchen, living space & dining area. Water access & shared laundry. 5 min. to Minden. $800/month, first & last. Mature working individual. References required. Available January 1st. Call 705-455-2050

SERVICES

SKILLED HANDYMAN - Available for renovations, trim, tile, bathroom, deck, basement, flooring and paint. Please call or text Bob at 705-457-6190

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

EVENT

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $130 per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE – Pure, unpasteurized honey. Clover, golden, liquid & creamed. Pure honey helps with allergies. Call Tom for details at 705-286-3628 / 2801 Blair Hampton Road

FOR SALE - MOTION STAIR LIFT model 3050 Elan, 14 ft long stair width 37", two remote controls. $1,500 or best offer. 4 Cooper winter tires on new rims, like new, size 265-70-R17. Bought for a Ford 150 XLT $950 or best offer. Location: Algonquin Highlands. Call 705-854-9201

FOR SALE – 1972 Buick Electra 225, 2 door hardtop, red/white top. 54,000 original miles. Easy restoration. Sale or trade. call 705-489-3906 for more information.

HELP WANTED

Join the BIA. Do your part.

Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA) is seeking an enthusiastic and organized Administrator to play a vital role in supporting the BIA's mission to enhance the vibrancy and success of Haliburton's downtown business community.

For more details contact brandon.nimigon@c21.ca

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - **Sundays** - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. **Mondays** - 7:00 pm at West Guilford Baptist church. **Wednesdays** - 7:00 pm at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON - WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: **Thursdays** 7 pm, St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and **Mondays** 7 pm at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every **Thursday** from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 40 Wonderful Years Together!

On December 25, 2024, Mac and Nancy Gadway of Harcourt will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary, marking a milestone filled with love, laughter, and countless cherished memories.

Married on Christmas Day in 1984, they have built a wonderful life together surrounded by their children, grandchildren, and loved ones.

Happy Ruby Anniversary, Mac and Nancy!

Wishing you many more years of love and happiness.

With love, from all of your family and friends!

LAWYER

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SOLUTIONS FOR DECEMBER 19

1 I	2 L	3 I	4 V	5 E	■	6 W	7 H	8 A	9 C	■	10 S	11 A	12 C	13 K
14 M	A	N	I	N	■	15 H	I	S	N	■	16 E	V	A	N
17 D	I	N	E	T	18 T	E	S	E	T	■	19 R	E	N	E
■	20 C	U	R	R	E	N	T	C	O	21 N	T	R	O	L
■	■	■	■	22 E	R	I	■	■	23 W	E	A	S	E	L
24 L	25 E	26 C	27 T	E	R	■	28 S	29 H	E	R	■	■	■	■
30 A	C	H	O	S	E	31 N	C	U	R	F	32 E	33 W	■	■
34 C	O	I	F	■	■	35 E	E	N	■	■	36 W	A	37 C	38 O
■	39 C	U	40 R	41 S	I	N	G	42 A	43 L	O	N	G	S	
■	■	■	44 H	A	L	T	■	45 M	A	K	E	I	T	
46 A	47 S	48 D	49 E	E	P	■	■	50 B	I	N	■	■	■	■
51 C	U	R	T	A	I	52 L	53 W	A	G	G	54 I	55 N	56 G	■
57 O	P	A	H	■	58 E	Y	E	R	O	L	L	I	N	59 G
60 M	E	M	E	■	61 N	F	L	D	■	62 E	L	L	A	S
63 A	R	A	L	■	64 S	T	D	S	■	65 Y	E	S	T	O

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1 W	2 K	3 R	4 P	■	5 E	6 G	7 A	8 D	■	9 R	10 A	11 S	12 T	13 A
14 O	N	E	L	■	15 M	O	W	N	■	16 O	N	T	A	P
17 N	O	M	A	18 D	C	O	W	D	19 I	S	E	A	S	E
■	20 C	A	N	O	E	D	■	■	21 D	A	M	N	S	■
22 U	K	R	■	23 J	E	T	24 S	25 K	I	■	26 I	D	E	27 S
28 P	E	R	29 I	O	D	I	C	N	O	30 T	A	B	L	E
31 C	R	Y	O	■	■	32 P	I	T	C	H	■	33 Y	S	L
■	■	■	34 N	35 S	36 F	■	■	■	37 Y	O	38 O	■	■	■
39 T	40 B	41 A	■	42 E	R	43 A	44 O	45 F	■	■	46 K	47 N	48 E	49 X
50 N	O	V	51 I	C	E	P	R	E	52 S	53 I	D	E	N	T
54 T	O	O	T	■	55 A	T	O	M	I	C	■	56 A	D	S
■	57 K	N	I	58 C	K	■	■	59 A	D	O	60 P	T	S	■
61 V	O	L	L	E	Y	62 B	63 A	L	L	N	O	N	E	64 T
65 I	F	E	E	L	■	66 F	R	E	E	■	67 S	I	A	M
68 A	F	A	S	T	■	69 F	E	S	S	■	70 T	K	T	S

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4	9	8	1	3	2	5	6	7
1	3	6	4	7	5	8	2	9
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3	5	4	6	8	1	7	9	2
9	6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Barry William Reid

May 15, 1943 to December 9, 2024

Dad passed peacefully at Hospice Peterborough with family by his side. Dad is now reunited with his wife, Mary-Lou Pollitt.

Dad will be missed by family, friends and coworkers. Isabel, Trevor (Jackie), Sean (Melissa), Kevin (Kirsten), Dora, Erin and Dave. Barry had many faithful dogs, including Ebby his final pup. Papa Barry will be greatly missed by his grandchildren Wade, Katie, Ashe, May, Jordan, Duthie and O'Rissa. Dad is survived by his sister Monica (Al), his brothers Chris (Carol), Trevor, Father Terry, his nieces and nephews Susie and John, Mike and Pam, Melissa and James.

Barry began life in Manchester until emigrating to Canada with his parents Hazel and Albert. He was fiercely loyal to his local football team Manchester United. Dad worked over 25 years for Chrysler at the Etobicoke Casting Plant, met many friends and will be missed by all. After retirement, Dad moved to Gooderham and loved the area where he met many friends. Those who met Dad were touched by his kindness. After many renovations, projects and repairs, Dad's craftsmanship and workmanship will live on for years to come. Dad and Mary-Lou enjoyed the outdoors hiking, canoeing, and snowshoeing with their dogs, where he felt most relaxed.

Dad is now at peace, and thank you for all that helped him get there. Special thanks to all who helped our father particularly in the past 12 months including Rev Dave Barker, Hospice Peterborough, Peterborough Regional Health Centre and St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Wilberforce.

Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Hospice Peterborough or SPCA of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

"Long Live Manchester United."

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Ellen Leslie King

1949-2024

Ellen died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on December 12, 2024.

She was deeply loved by her husband Jim Burr, their shared children Sam, Mason, Ben and Marci, Matt and Catarina and grandchildren Carter, Nathan, Storii and Natalie.

She will be forever missed by her sister Jude, her husband Glenn as well as Zeke, Jillian, Beau, Summer, Grace, Kevin and Arlo.

It is impossible to summarize Ellen's life and the impact she had on the lives she touched. She lived in Haliburton County most of her adult life. She was an original Studio Tour artist, a respected mental health therapist, a reiki master, a meditation and spiritual teacher and a friend and support to so many people in the community. She loved Jim, her family and the life she and Jim created together. She was kind, gentle, smart and intuitive. She fought hard to live as long as she could.

Her spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved her.

A celebration of Ellen and her life will be announced at a later date.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Kendal "Peter" Schellenberg

Passed away Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay, Ontario. Beloved husband of Mary Ellen (Kennedy). Loving father of Leo (Amanda), Joseph (Caitlyn), Melissa (Tyler Christoffersen) and Christina. He will be missed by his grandchildren Brynlee, Ryan and Thomas. Survived by his sister Sherry (Jack Morrison) and sister-in-law Barb. Predeceased by his siblings David and Susan (Bruce Swinson). According to his wishes, cremation has taken place.

There will be no service at this time. Family and Friends from near and far will join together at his home early next summer.

Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Rest in peace.

Lakeland Funeral & Cremation Centre

www.lakelandfuneralcentre.com

In Loving Memory of

Patrick Russell

(Resident of Coboconk, Ontario)

Peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family on Sunday morning, December 15, 2024 in his 78th year. Beloved husband and best friend of Helen Russell for over 52 years. Dear brother of Don (Nancy). Much loved brother-in-law of Gordon (Peggy) and sister-in-laws of Marilyn and Kathy (Roger). Predeceased by his parents Howard & Frances Russell, his sister Mary Ellen, and by his brother-in-law Gerald. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews, his great nieces and great nephews. Pat worked for the City of Kawartha Lakes as an Area 4 Manager for many years. He was an avid ball player and a coach & was also involved in hockey. Pat is best known for his involvement in the Community with Minor Ball, Hockey and many organizations in Hockey. He sat on the former Township of Bexley's Parks and Recreation Committee and was instrumental in establishing the Legion Ball Park in Coboconk. He enjoyed wood cutting at Grass Creek, eating egg salad sandwiches by the river and feeding his many friends.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at **FAITH TABERNACLE** 6 Albert St. Coboconk, Ontario on Thursday afternoon, December 19, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. A Funeral Service will follow on Friday morning, December 20, 2024 at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Interment St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery north of Victoria Road. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Faith Tabernacle, Ronald McDonald House or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 6644 Hwy. #35 Coboconk, Ontario (705) 454-3913.

Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory of

Norma Jacqueline Dobson (nee Sanderson)

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Norma Jacqueline Dobson on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at Extendicare, Haliburton, at the age of 92.

Loving wife of the late Gordon James Dobson (2019), mother to David (Linda), Sheron (Pete), Linda (Ed), nana to Kevin (Maryanne), Russell (Monique), Colleen (Andrew), Meagan (Cole), Graham, Andrea, and big nana to Brooklyn, Walker, Benjamin, James, Wyatt, Logan and Conor. Survived by her brother John Sanderson.

We know you are in great company and welcomed by our loved ones who have gone before us. See you on the other side.

It was Norma's wish for cremation and a Celebration of her Life will be held at a later date.

The family would like to extend their deep appreciation to all the staff at Extendicare for all the loving care during Norma's stay there.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Patricia "Pat" Williams (nee Roberts)

Peacefully in Haliburton in her 85th year, Patricia "Pat" Williams (nee Roberts). Pat was a warm and welcoming presence in the lives of those around her. Loving mother of Barbara and Michael. Beloved sister of Peter (Jackie), Diane (Eric), Celia (Bill), and Alan (Nancy). Pat was also a devoted grandmother to Tori and Connor (Beth). Predeceased by her parents Frank and Beatrice Roberts and by her husband Jim Williams. Pat was the most generous and positive person this world has ever known. She always had a smile and laughed often. A very social person, she absolutely loved entertaining and gatherings with family and friends. She really lived by the motto "the more the merrier".

If you were lucky enough to meet Pat, whether for just a moment or many years, you experienced what true joy and loving warmth felt like. From the local convenience store owner in Buckhorn to the dedicated nurses at Haliburton Hospital, everyone who met her would smile and say, "Pat is our favourite." She left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered, spreading kindness and light wherever she went. When it came to staying connected, Pat was always the first to show her support and encouragement on Facebook. If you were lucky enough to be in her circle of friends and family, you could count on her quick reactions, heartfelt comments, and uplifting messages, all at legendary lightning speed.

Pat spent 35 years working for IBM and was perhaps the most tech-savvy octogenarian you could ever meet. Known affectionately by her family as "the IT Department," she never met a gadget she couldn't master. Being proudly British, Pat's sharp wit and humor were unmatched, as was her legendary shepherd's pie recipe.

Pat's excitement about the world was driven by her boundless lust for life and unwavering positivity. From the beaches of Hawaii to the wonders of Dubai, she embraced every experience with an open heart and an infectious enthusiasm. For Pat, it wasn't just about seeing new places—it was about celebrating life's beauty, connecting with people, and finding joy in every moment. Her spirit of curiosity and optimism inspired those around her to see the world through the same bright and hopeful lens.

Words cannot fully capture how generous, kind, and extraordinary Pat was. She brought joy to everyone she touched and leaves behind a legacy of warmth, laughter, and love that will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

Private Funeral Arrangements

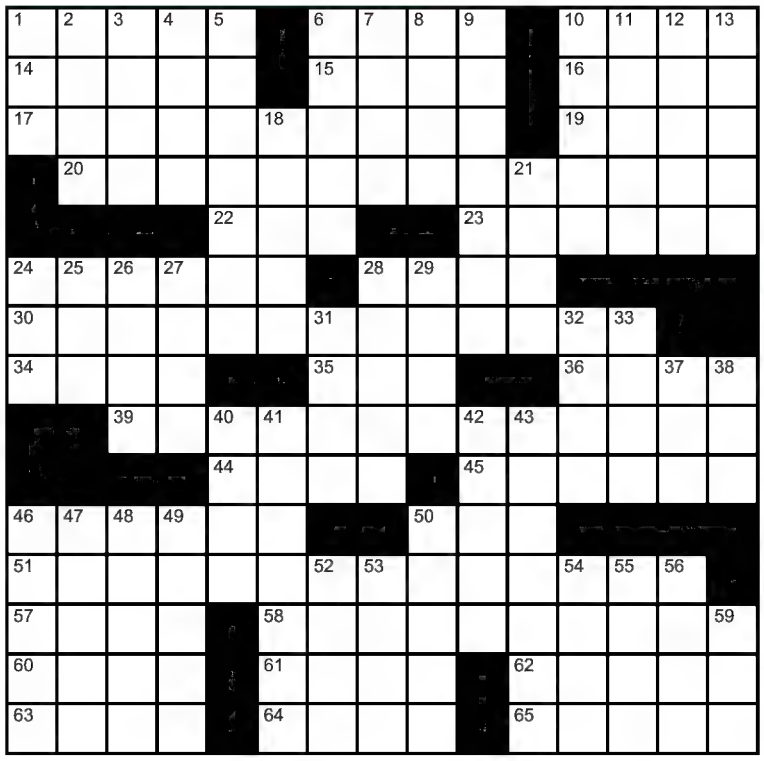
As per the family's wishes, Pat's life will be honoured in a private celebration. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

THIS IS A 2 WEEK PAPER.
OUR NEXT ONE WILL BE OUT
JAN. 9, 2025

Who Let the Dogs In

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Helen Keller's "The World ___ In"
6 ___-A-Mole
10 Hopping racer's need
14 ___ the moon
15 That guy's, to a hick
16 "Almighty" role for Carell
17 Matching kitchen table and chairs
19 Lévesque or Descartes
20 Knob for adjusting electrical flow?
22 ___ tu (Italian for "It was you")
23 It goes "pop" in a kid's song
24 Hannibal played by Hopkins
28 "Fer ___!" ("You betcha!")
30 Self-determined time to be home?
34 Short cut?
35 Twilight, to Tennyson
36 Branch Dividian siege site
39 Gatherings for swearing together?
44 "Go no further!"
45 Come through successfully
46 Equally profound
50 Blue recycle icon
51 Teach Spot to show less happiness?
57 Shimmery food fish
58 Teen's response to an uncool parent, maybe
60 Viral net image
61 St. John's prov.
62 Fitzgerald and Mai
63 Shrinking Asian water body
64 Norms: Abbr.
65 "Say ___ the Dress" (reality series)

Down

1 Sent an online note, in brief
2 Not part of the clergy
3 People of Labrador's north
4 Competitor
5 Priciest menu items, usually
6 Leo Sayer's "___ Need You"
7 Study of the past: Abbr.
8 Small time?
9 High point of a Toronto tour?
10 Sealy mattress rival
11 States with certainty
12 The voyageurs transport
13 Funeral bell sound
18 Land, in LaSalle
21 Sponge ball
24 La Biche or La Hache
25 Earth-friendly prefix
26 Très stylish
27 White cubes in a stir-fry, maybe
28 Incense emanation
29 Like an undecided jury
31 Diamond or Simon
32 Furry little "Star Wars" creature
33 Dwindle
37 Special effects technology
38 Opposite of "est," in Germany
40 Ostrich kin or actress Perlman
41 Homo ___ ("wise human")
42 Barcelona buddy
43 Surrey, B.C.'s eastern neighbour
46 In ___ (more than just asleep)
47 "Fabulous!"
48 Class where the play's the thing
49 Singer Merman
50 Poets of yore
52 Uber alternative
53 Join metal with a hot rod
54 French river to Rennes
55 Soccer zips
56 Tiny biter
59 Mil. aide

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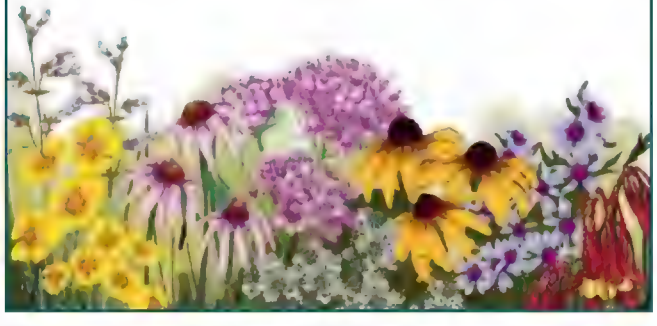

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in support of
The Central Food Network

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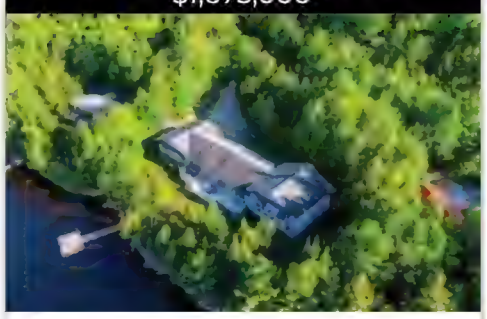
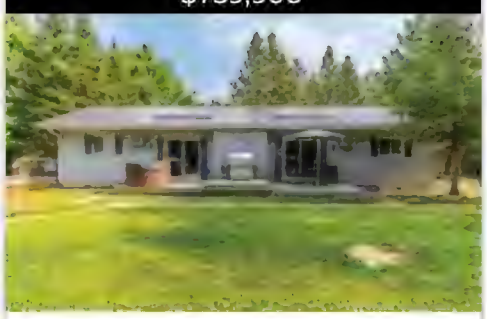
LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE
$1,675,000



5X BED | 4X BATH | MLS X10436789

GULL RIVER
$759,900

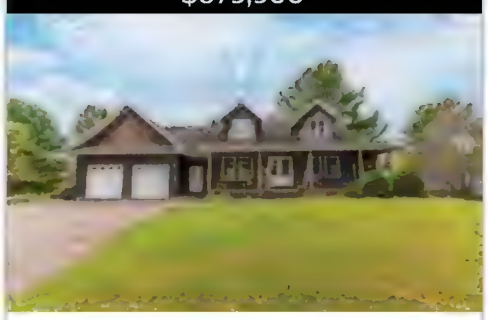


5X BED | 3X BATH | MLS X10434162

EAGLE LAKE
$699,900

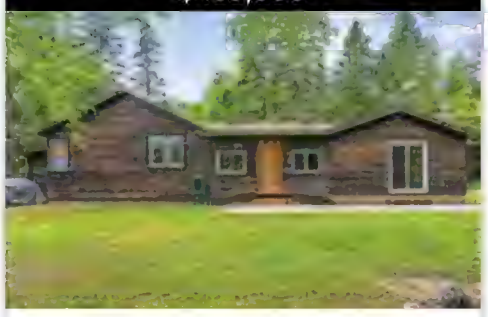
2X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X11823234

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
$679,900



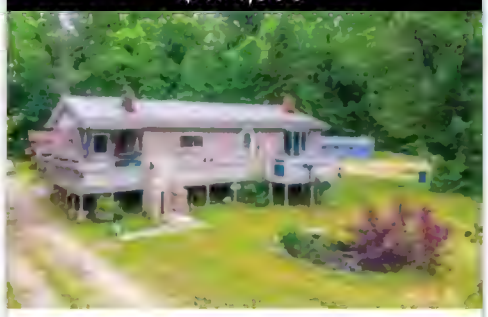
DEEDED ACCESS TO MAPLE LAKE | MLS X10437737

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000



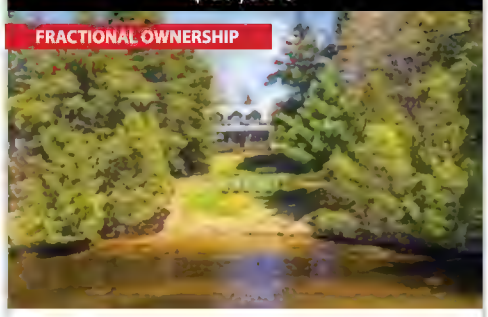
3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10435688

HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900



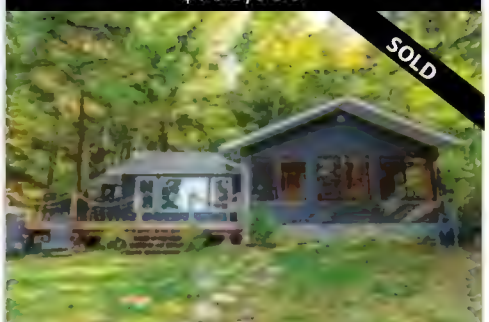
3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS X10437756

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000



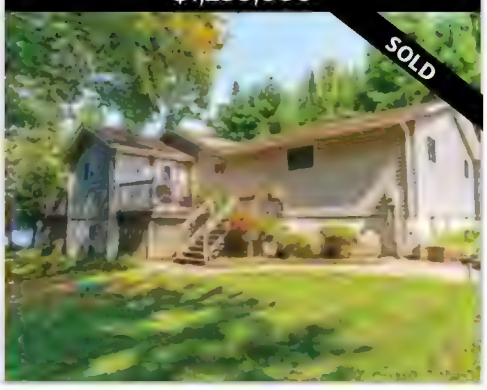
MLS X11884689

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000

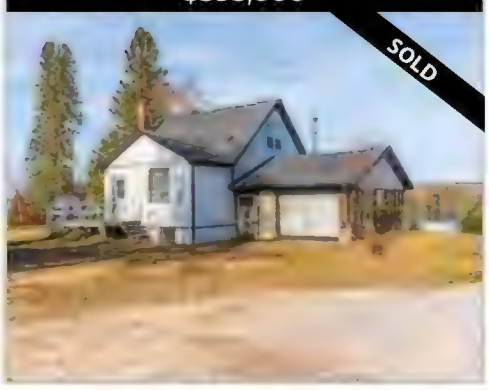


EAGLE LAKE
$597,000

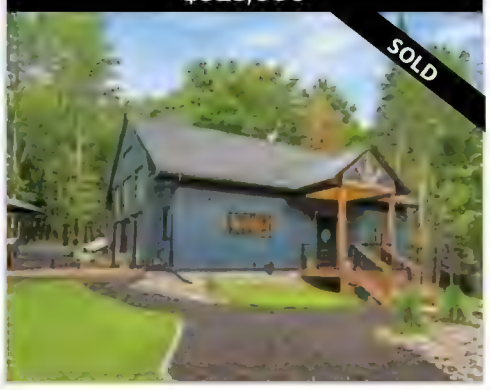
HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000



WEST GUILFORD
$395,000



EAGLE LAKE
$925,000



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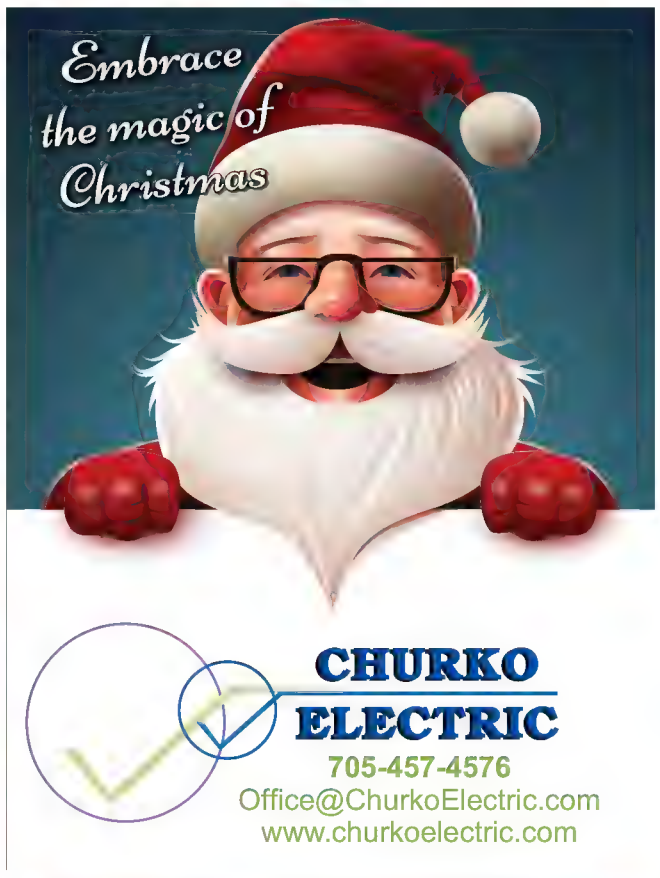
The Highlander

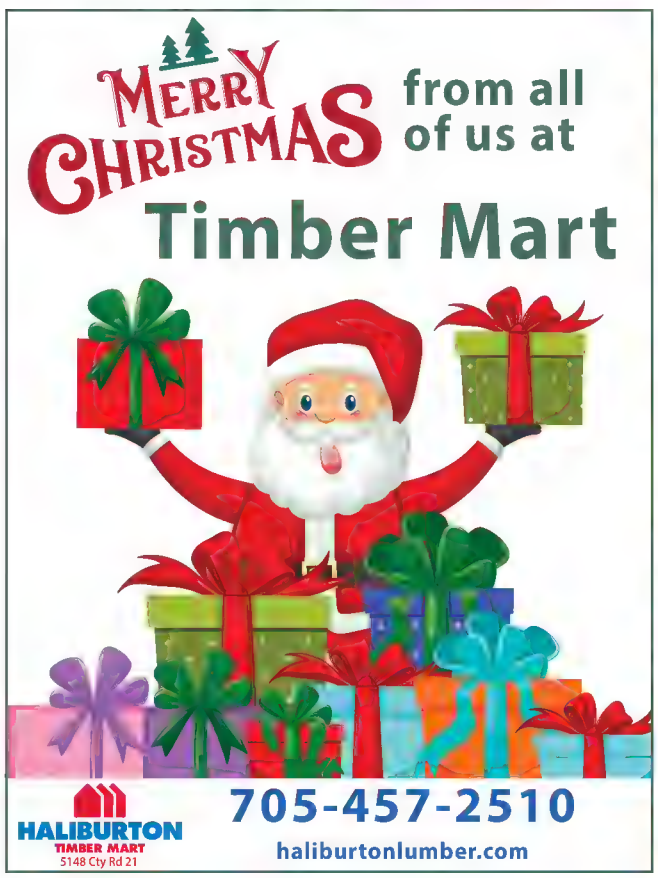
Christmas EDITION

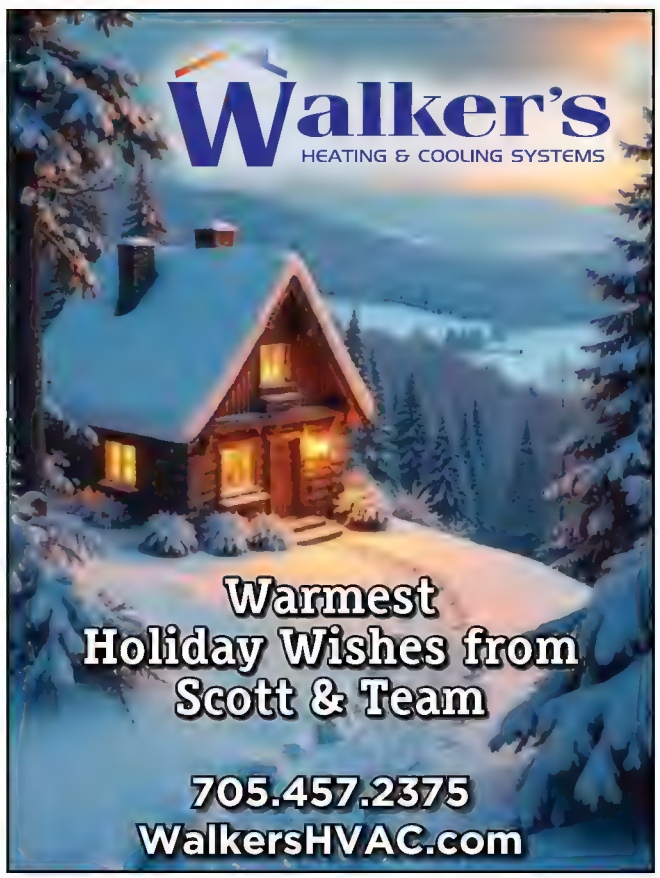
Thursday December 19, 2024

Bristol Wattling, Teaha Wattling, Santa Claus, Harper Kadlovski and brother Carter Kadlovski at the Haliburton Rotary Community Christmas party Dec. 13 at the A.J. LaRue Arena and Haliburton Legion. See more photos on pages 6-7. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

Merry Christmas







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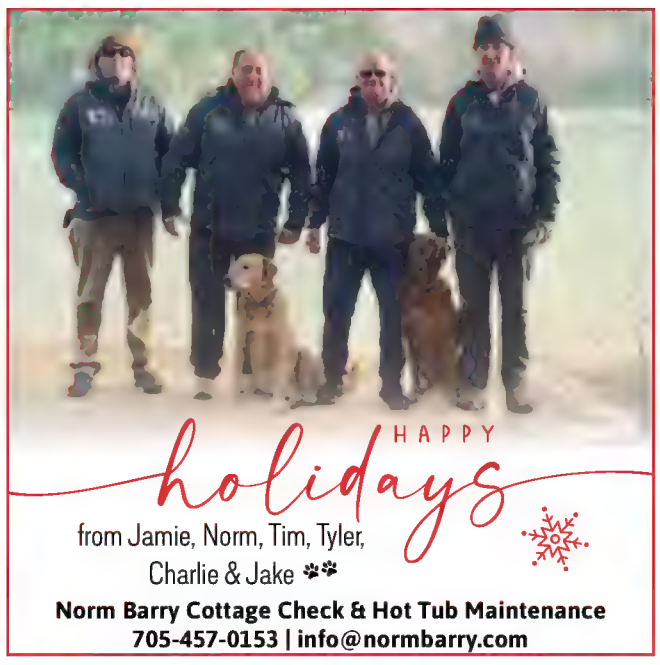
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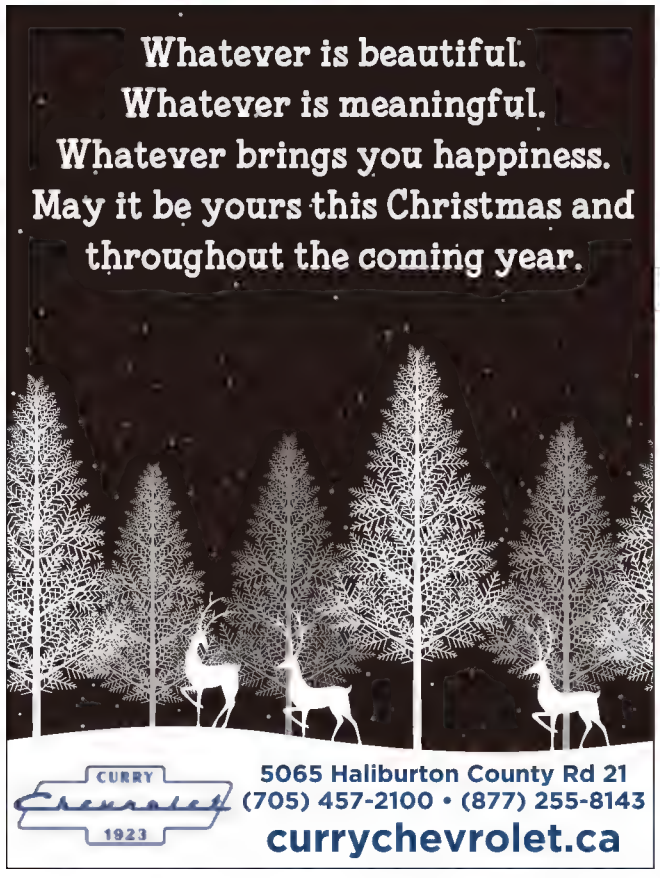
Whatever is beautiful.
Whatever is meaningful.
Whatever brings you happiness.
May it be yours this Christmas and throughout the coming year.
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Joy and blessings, from our family to yours, this Christmas
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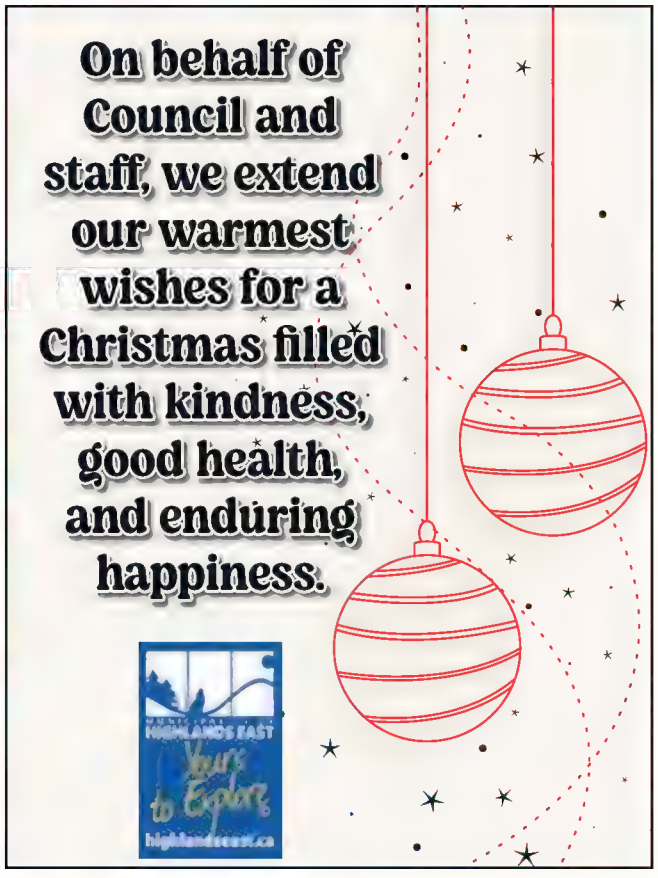
On behalf of Council and staff, we extend our warmest wishes for a Christmas filled with kindness, good health, and enduring happiness.

It takes a village

For Haliburton resident Rob McCaig, it's been feeling a lot like Christmas inside his family's Sunnyside Street home for several weeks. The festive fanatic has been working since early November transforming part of his basement into a custom-made 175 sq. ft. Christmas village, affectionately dubbed 'McCaig-R-Ville'. The village has grown substantially from the first iteration in 1979. It boasts 56 buildings, including a downtown with a community centre, town hall, police station, library, post office, bakery, and selection of locally-themed and inspired stores. There are also nine mountain ranges, two train stations, a lookout tower, two churches and a music hall. McCaig has scattered 500 caricatures across the set. He's been accepting donations from family and friends who have seen the display, with all proceeds supporting SIRCH Community Services. The non-profit is hosting a free Christmas dinner on Dec. 25, from 4 to 7 p.m. All are welcome. *(Mike Baker).*

Top left: Rob McCaig poses in front of his homemade 175 sq. ft. Christmas village. Left: The scene, now loosely based on Haliburton County, features 56 buildings. Above: A train track circles the village, disappearing behind winding hills while it circuits two separate lines. *Submitted.*

Cheers to eggnog by the fire.
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
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Wishing you all the best for 2025.

May your holidays sparkle with joy and laughter!
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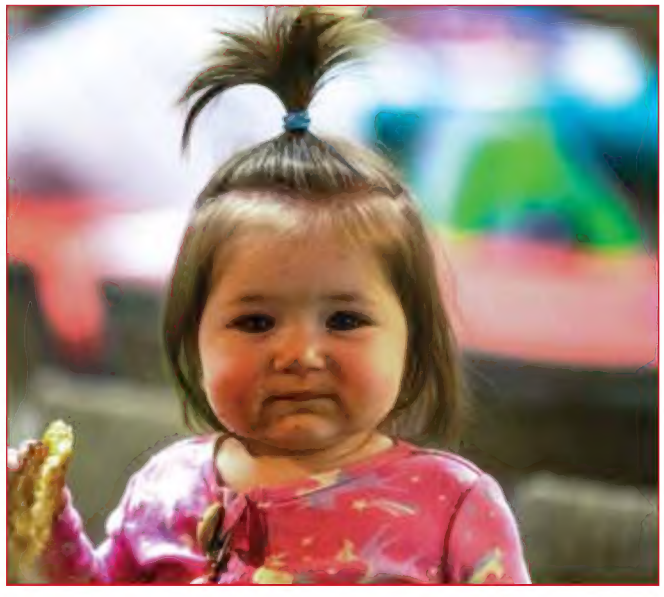
THIS IS A 2 WEEK PAPER. OUR NEXT ONE WILL BE OUT JAN. 9, 2025



Wasn't that a party?

The Haliburton Rotary community Christmas party returned to the A.J. LaRue Arena and Haliburton Legion Dec. 13. The free offering featured skating, music, hot chocolate, pizza and treats, games, face painting, presents for all the kids, and people were urged to bring their cameras for a picture with Santa. *(Lisa Gervais).*

Top left: Cohen Fessey is excited for his cotton candy. Top right: Maggie Thompson plays her sax during some Christmas songs. Middle left: A tuba player playing Christmas songs. Middle: Sophia Rahaman gets her face painted by Pockets the Clown. Middle right: Lil baby Nora enjoys her pizza. Left: The happiest kid in Haliburton, Isaiah Young, loves his face paint. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

Merry Christmas
and SEASONS GREETINGS
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To our friends
near & dear
at Christmastime...

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Best Wishes &
Happy Holidays!

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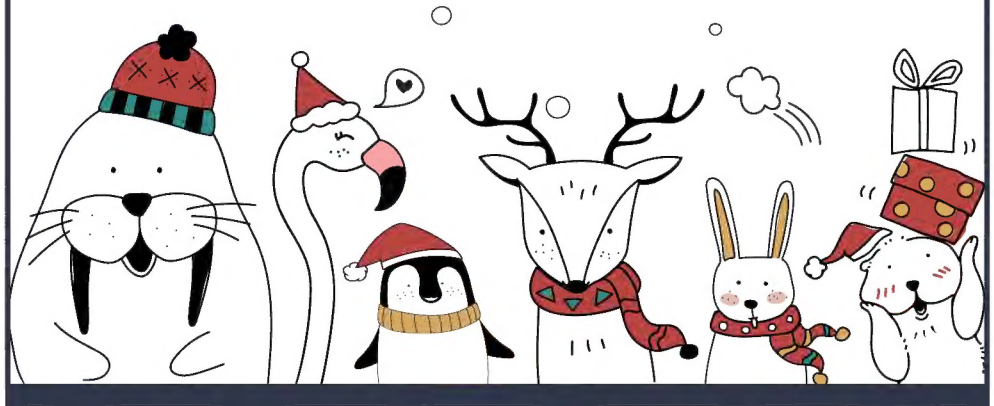
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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Christmas
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